NORTHERN ISLANDER

$5.00

WELCOME TO MAY 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Until further notice, brush and timber debris from the ice storm damage is being accepted at the Transfer Station through June 15, free of charge. Please closely follow the instructions given by Station employees. No dumping after hours. Due to the amount of debris Island-wide, we may need to adjust the time frame, as space is limited.

BIHS MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT

Join the Beaver Island Historical Society on Saturday, May 10, for an evening of good company. Learn more about the event on page 3.

DRIVING ON THIN ICE

For an interesting story about how a night of fun ended at the bottom of the lake, check out page 5.

BEAVER HEAD LIGHTHOUSE: THE WORK CONTINUES!

The Beaver Head Light House is a beloved Island landmark, and the work is steadfast and ongoing! Visit pages 16 and 17 to learn more.

BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Established 1957
Keeping Island History Alive

NORTHERN ISLANDER

is proudly owned and published by the
Beaver Island Historical Society

Board President	Angela LeFevre-Welke
Executive Director	Lori Taylor-Blitz
Executive Editor	George Broder
Editor	Elsie Burton
Editor's Assistant	Brittney Rittof
Circulation Manager	Lu O'Connor

Phone: 231-448-2254 **Email: editor@beaverislandhistory.org** **Mail: PO Box 295, Beaver Island, MI 49782**

Hello, Northern Islander Readers!

My name is Elsie Burton, and I'm thrilled to introduce myself as the new editor of the Northern Islander. If you know me, this may not come as a surprise—I previously worked for the Beaver Island Historical Society for four years and even served as an editorial assistant during the newspaper's early editions after its new ownership began in 2023.

I grew up on Beaver Island, my family still resides there, and I continue to love my hometown dearly. It's one of those rare places that stays with you no matter where life takes you. While I currently live in St. Louis, Michigan, I'm proud to help keep you connected to the Island through your trusted local news source. I earned my bachelor's degree in Scientific and Technological Communication and an associate degree in Humanities from Michigan Technological University. During my time there, I developed a strong foundation in writing, editing, and communicating complex ideas clearly—skills I now bring to each edition of the paper.

It's an honor to bring Beaver Island locals and lovers of the Island the news they care about. Keeping local journalism alive on the Emerald Isle. I've truly enjoyed every minute of putting together these recent editions. There's something special about weaving together the voices and hard work of so many contributors—giving new life to the stories, experiences, and everyday moments that make Beaver Island such a remarkable place.

Even more exciting? The Northern Islander has officially gone digital—you can now read the paper both in print and online!

To check out our new website, head to **northernislander.news** and start your subscription today.

I'm also pleased to announce that the paper has welcomed a new editorial assistant, Brittney "Britt" Ritoff. Her creativity and dedication have already made a wonderful impact, and we're excited to continue growing together as a team.

If you have a story idea, event, photo, or island memory you'd like to share, I'd love to hear from you! You can reach me at editor@beaverislandhistory.org or by calling 231-622-2192.

Thank you for welcoming me into this role. I look forward to growing together and keeping our community informed, connected, and celebrated.

Warmly,
Elsie Burton
Editor of the Northern Islander

ACCESS MADE EASY

GET YOUR NORTHERN ISLANDER NEWS ONLINE

Check out our website!

Our mission is to strengthen communities by providing local news and editorials, and we hope you enjoy our online content.

Some of the features of our website are:

For subscribers only: the ability to read up-to-date articles about the county and surrounding communities

For subscribers only: an extensive gallery of pictures from local events

For subscribers only: an archived section of printed newspapers

News Online:
northernislander.news

NORTHERN ISLANDER

PRINT SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Subscriptions to the website are offered at a reduced rate to our print subscribers.

$50.00 for in-state residents
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Add online access for just $12.00

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$48.00 per year

PRINT SHOP PERSPECTIVE

By Lori Taylor-Blitz

Since 1957, The Beaver Island Historical Society has been working to keep Beaver Island History Alive! We advance this goal through a mission of preserving and sharing the unique history of Beaver Island and the Archipelago.

It's finally May, and I can't wait to see our flower garden burst into bloom at the Print Shop Museum and watch the Pollinator Garden thrive after a long winter!

COLLEGE STUDENTS RETURN

Excitingly, two Central Michigan University Honors classes will be lending their talents to island organizations with public service projects from May 11-16.

Get ready for some hands-on exploration as Beaver Island hosts two field schools this month. Northern Michigan University's Archaeology Field School will be on the island through June 14, uncovering early trading post artifacts at Whiskey Point and below the hill behind the St. James Township Office.

Eastern Michigan University's Historic Preservation Graduate Field School will be making magic happen at Beaver Head Lighthouse until May 25, working alongside volunteers and Keith Bynum's Nine Design & Homes to tackle window repairs, plastering, and masonry. Don't miss out on all the action!

The Historical Society will collaborate with both Field Schools and host a meet and greet with our community and ask the students to share their experiences.

WHAT'S NEW AT THE MUSEUMS THIS YEAR

The Print Shop Museum has revamped the Native American Exhibit and is gearing up to launch a captivating new exhibit about the Indian Boarding School Era (1860-1983). Thanks to a Charlevoix County Community Foundation grant, the Historical Society will create a traveling exhibit and offer fascinating related programming. Executive Assistant Melissa Wiatrolik, from the Little Traverse Bay Band, along with other Tribal Members, will lead this exciting project aiming for completion by mid-June.

The Museums are introducing a new admission model this season where an entry fee of $5.00 will be charged for adults, while children can enter free of charge. We encourage you to renew your membership or become a member of the Historical Society, as members will enjoy complimentary admission. This decision was not taken lightly; however, due to fluctuations in grant availability and increasing operational costs, we are trialing a fixed admission fee rather than relying on voluntary donations.

Also, please note the Historical Society participates in the Museums for All program. This is an initiative by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Through Museums for All, individuals receiving food assistance (SNAP benefits) are eligible for free admission by simply presenting their EBT card.

Board of Directors: 2024-2025

President: Angel LaFevre-Welke
Vice President: Tracy Paquin
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Executive Director: Lori Taylor-Blitz

Trustee: Kim Bousquet
Trustee: George Broder
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Trustee: Craig Turnbull
Trustee: Alan Vicstein

SPONSORSHIPS:

Would you like to sponsor a child this year for Kids Camp? We are also adding a Kids page to the Northern Islander and looking for a sponsor for their page. Please give the office a call 231-448-2254.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May—Member Appreciation Event

Join us for an unforgettable night of celebration as we mark the second anniversary of Northern Islanders! Don't miss this exciting chance to connect with our Board Members, Editorial Team, Staff and immerse yourself in a special presentation on the vibrant Anishinaabe Regalia and dance styles.

Date: Saturday, May 10, 2025
Time: 6:30–8:00 p.m.
Location: Print Shop Museum
Refreshments: Indulge in delicious cake and refreshing punch!

MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT
6:30 - 8:00 P.M.
BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PRESENTS
Anishinaabe Regalia
PLEASE COME EARLY TO MEET AND GREET NORTHERN ISLANDER NEWSPAPER STAFF
MISS ODAWA
PHOTO BY CHERIE DOMINIC
SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025 7 P.M.
Learn about different regalia styles and dances of the Great Lakes Anishinaabe.
Meet and Greet with Northern Islanders Newspaper Staff 6:30 - 7:00 P.M
Light refreshments and cake will be available
PRINT SHOP
26275 MAIN STREET BEAVER ISLAND, MI 49782
231-448-2254

June—Music on the Porch

Mark your calendars! This summer we are hosting Music on the Porch once a month! Join us for the first one on June 6, 2025, for an electrifying evening. Get ready to rock out with SUGARBUSH, a local Native American band known for their high-energy performance of classic rock hits. This is one event you won't want to miss! Bring a lawn chair and enjoy an evening outdoors.

Date: Friday, June 6, 2025
Time: 7:00–8:30 p.m.
Location: Print Museum Shop Porch

JOINT TOWNSHIPS REPORT: ICE STORM RESPONSE

ST. JAMES AND PEAINE TOWNSHIPS

Submitted by Bobbi Welke and Maria Dal Pra

The historic ice storm on March 29–30, 2025, severely impacted Beaver Island. While the mainland faced greater damage and longer outages—delaying resource availability—our resilient islanders rose to the challenge.

LOCAL RESPONSE

Medical and Wellness Support: Beaver Island Health Center and Beaver Island Emergency Medical Services (BIEMS) provided care for residents with medical needs, including oxygen access, and supplied prescription medications until flights resumed. BIEMS also conducted wellness checks and helped relocate people to warm shelters.

Emergency Services and Utilities: Sheriff deputies, road crews, and the local Great Lakes Energy (GLE) team cleared roads, repaired downed lines, and restored power. Deputies also performed wellness checks. The island's aerial power system was heavily damaged by ice and falling trees on March 30, with the worst damage in the south along East Side Drive, South End Road, and West Side Drive.

Power Restoration: Power restoration began at the GLE substation and extended outward. Full power to occupied homes was restored by April 11, including the installation of 21 new poles. Homes still without power require individual connection repairs.

The buried power grid in town remained mostly operational, with minimal outage time. After the mainland substation at Cross Village failed, the island's generator powered restored sections. Mainland power resumed on April 4.

Communications: TDS managed telephone and internet systems using battery backups and portable generators. Two large generators arrived on April 6, and more are on order to improve future emergency capacity.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Community platforms—Facebook's Beaver Island This and That, WVBI radio, Peaine Township's website, and the Northern Islander digital site—helped spread crucial updates. Warming stations were set up at Peaine Township Hall, the Community Center, and other private spaces. The school closed for the week and opened showers to the public.

TRANSPORTATION AND EXTERNAL AID

Travel Delays: Flights were grounded March 29–31 and April 2 due to weather and power outages in Charlevoix. Ice conditions and vessel preparation delayed marine services.

Air Support: Island Airways delivered emergency supplies, GLE crews, contractors, Starlink systems, prescriptions, and essential food and water.

Marine Support: St. James Marine/Fogg Towing began operations April 6, transporting generators and needed equipment. The Beaver Island Boat Company resumed ferry service April 8, bringing state emergency teams, including the DNR, Task Force 1, and the National Guard, to address road and communication tower issues. The Guard departed April 9, and remaining teams left April 10. On April 9, the first semi-truck of store goods also arrived.

Photo submitted by Danny Doig

ONGOING RECOVERY

County Sheriff: Deputies will inspect primary residences for structural issues.

BI Fire Department: Fire Department crews will assess unoccupied homes for service connection issues and notify GLE and home-owners of any visible damage.

Charlevoix County Road Commission: Road crews will continue to use the State provided commercial chipper for another ten days to remove road debris in Peaine Township and improve the safety of travel for residents.

Department of Natural Resources: The DNR will be issuing a permit to both Peaine Township and the Beaver Island Archipelago Trail Association to address the extensive damage and debris in the parks and trails.

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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT
FEATURING FRANK D'ANDRAIA
By Lois Stipp

Have you ever wondered who's been quietly walking King's Highway, picking up after others, ensuring our island stays beautiful? For years, this often unnoticed but vital work has been done by none other than Frank D'Andraia. It was Frank who brought the 'Adopt a Highway' program to Beaver Island, first working with the County of Charlevoix, then engaging the townships to expand the effort. What began as one person's care for the island evolved into an island project—an opportunity for others to contribute to something greater. With a smile, Frank said, "If I were ever going to run for office, I think I would start there." Fun side note: It was Bobbi Welke's father who brought the 'Adopt a Highway' program to Michigan.

Frank's journey to Beaver Island started in the early 1990s, when he and his wife, Dana, first visited. A simple trip soon led to purchasing property—one piece at first, then another, and eventually a third that included a cabin. What began as just two weeks a year on the island steadily grew: four weeks, then six, then eight. As Frank's career at the university changed, his position as a Senior Professor granted him greater flexibility, allowing more time on the island. Finally, retirement brought the opportunity to live here full-time—something that has made an incredible difference for Beaver Island in many ways.

Another source of pride for Frank is the Beaver Island Annual Bocce Tournament, which he has organized since 2017. With an average of 50 participants each year, the tournament has raised over $15,000 for local nonprofits, including the Beaver Island Historical Society, Beaver Island Food Bank, Beaver Island Performing Arts Alliance, Beaver Island Community Center/ WVBI, Friends of Beaver Island Animals, and Forest View Senior Housing. In 2025, the Beaver Island Rural Health Center will be the beneficiary of the tournament's proceeds.

Currently, much of Frank's focus is on the Medical Center, where he serves as the Board President. Many positive changes have already taken place under his leadership, and even more promising developments are on the horizon—big, transformative improvements that will benefit the entire island community.

Beyond the Bocce Tournament and Medical Center, Frank has dedicated time to numerous other volunteer efforts:

- George & Althea Petritz Nature Preserve (St. James Township) – Little Traverse Conservancy Volunteer Steward since 2019
- Little Traverse Conservancy's Beaver Island Steering Committee – Member since 2019
- Beaver Island (Joint Township) Waste Management Committee – Member and Secretary (2019 - 2022)
- Bite of Beaver Committee – Co-Chair with MaryJean Pike (2018 - 2021)
- St. James Board of Review – Member and Chair since 2018
- President of Baroque on Beaver

Through his dedication, generosity, and willingness to take action, Frank has left an undeniable mark on Beaver Island. He is a reminder that one person's passion and effort can ripple outward, inspiring others can ripple outward, inspiring others and strengthening an entire community.

HOW THE FAMILY CAR WENT FOR A SWIM
By Michelle LaFreniere

Joseph "Buddy" Martin was born here on the island in 1951. He has stories to tell. I was privileged enough to be able to hear one of them. This story does not involve Buddy himself but his brother Jimmy Lee and his friends.

Buddy was able to double check his facts of this story with his older sister Margie and some of the Mooney's.

As the story goes, in the winter of 1958 Jimmy Lee Martin borrowed his parent's car to go for an evening drive with friends. His parents were Charlie and Marion Martin. Buddy remembers riding in the car, because it had "suicide doors" on it and he fell out of it on King's Highway once. He believes the car was about 20 years old at the time, but, other than the Model A, which his brother Mike still has today, it was the only vehicle the family had. It was fairly common in those days to drive on the ice around the edge of the island. Jim Martin, Eugene and LaDonis Mooney, and Kenny McDonough were the occupants of the car on this cold February night.

Buddy isn't sure where they got on the ice but the car broke through the surface near Mrs. Reddings trail. It went down into 15 feet of water. Initially, Kenny McDonough was unable to get out of the car. Eugene dove back down, got the door open, and got Kenny out of the car. On a good note, Eugene was easily able to find the car when he dove back in because the headlights were still on.

They were able to get a fire going to warm up only because Jimmy Lee had a Zippo lighter. From there they walked back to the Mooney's. At that time they lived in the house Buddy and his wife Colleen live in now.

The following morning Hubert McCauley stopped in at Charlie's to tell him the news. While he was happy they were all okay, he was hopping mad about the car.

The car was brought to shore, had the engine removed but it stayed there, never to run again. Buddy found the car this winter while out riding on a snowmobile. After listening to the story he agreed to show me where the car is.

We loaded up in his trusty suburban, stopped at the gas station for coffee, and away we went.

The photo shows Bud Martin with what is left of the car.

BEAVER ISLAND WILDLIFE CLUB

By Jacque LaFreniere

The Beaver Island Wildlife Club distributes trees and shrubs for wildlife conservation every spring.

This spring we had 50 each of:

- Domestic Apple
- Wild Pear
- Hybrid Chestnut
- Highbush Cranberry
- Red-osier Dogwood
- American Elderberry
- American Hazelnut
- Saskatoon Serviceberry

This spring season, we also provided tree protection for the apple, pear, and chestnut trees.

Club members were given first choice of trees on day one of the distribution. All others saplings were distributed on day two and beyond. There may be some left, call Levi Connor.

All trees were free, although we asked for a freewill donation.

The picture shown above depicts an elderberry sapling. This image was provided by the Beaver Island Wildlife Club.

THE INVASIVE SPECIES THREAT ON BEAVER ISLAND

By Cheryl Oliver Kern
Peaine Township Invasive Species Administrator

Invasive species are plants and animals introduced to new environments, causing harm. They can spread quickly and suffocate native plants, posing threats to ecosystems, economies, and human health by altering habitats and competing for resources.

Invasive species significantly affect property values, tourism, recreation, utilities, and industry. They are more than landscaping nuisances; they reduce property appeal and value. Examples of invasive plant species that potentially lower property values include Japanese Knotweed, Tree of Heaven, Garlic Mustard, Autumn Olive, Phragmites, and European Swamp Thistle.

Invasive species can displace native species that provide vital nutrition and habitat for local wildlife. Plants like Autumn Olive, Butterfly Bush, and Honeysuckle cause malnutrition for birds, butterflies, and bees. They crowd out essential native plants and create habitats suitable for non-native pests. The Tree of Heaven is a host to the Spotted Lanternfly, harmful to Maple, Birch, and fruit trees. Scots Pines carry diseases that affect White Pine.

Species like Phragmites and, to a lesser extent, Narrow Leaf Cattail degrade wetlands and coastal areas by crowding out native plants and animals, obstructing shoreline views, reducing access for swimming, fishing, and hunting, and creating fire hazards with dry plant material.

Endangered species are frequently impacted by invasive plants. Coltsfoot can extensively cover sunny regions, potentially reducing biodiversity and property values. This plant may pose a risk to the habitat of endangered species such as the Michigan Monkey Flower. Similarly, Spotted Knapweed competes with and crowds out Pitcher's Thistle.

Additionally, the toxins from Hounds-tongue and Wild Parsnip can cause skin reactions in humans and may be fatal if ingested. Domestic animals may also consume these plants, resulting in illness or death.

All the invasive plants listed in this article are present on Beaver Island. Controlling the spread of invasive species can be achieved by managing gardens, pets, gear, and firewood. Reporting sightings and planting native habitats can support wildlife. Learning and teaching through books, meetings, and articles can also be beneficial.

ENERGY RESILIENCE FINAL REPORT PRESENTED IN JUNE

By Beth Croswhite

The Energy Transition Initiative Technology Innovation Partnership Program (ETIPP) will be presenting its final report to the Beaver Island community at the Sustainability Fair on June 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the CMU Biological Station Auditorium. Please join us for this pertinent information for Beaver Island. Refreshments will be served.

ETIPP awarded a grant to Tara's Meadow in 2022 to research the feasibility of alternative, renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements for Beaver Island. The committee membership was nationwide, utilizing members of both township planning commissioners and community leaders, members of Tara's Meadow, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), Island Institute, Great Lakes Island Alliance (GLIA), Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Energy Transition Technology Initiative Innovation Partnership Program (ETIPP), and Northern Michigan University (NMU). This committee initially discussed Island needs and quickly created a list of "critical infrastructures". From the critical infrastructures list, the committee investigated generator availability in times of emergencies. An energy efficiency company was hired to inspect critical infrastructures and develop energy audits to save costs.

Solar and wind renewable power generation was investigated as sources of primary and/or secondary resilience for the Island. The committee explored ground-mounted solar, rooftop residential solar and possible micro grids with battery backup. Wind power was also investigated.

All of this collected data is now available through the Beaver Island ETIPP final report. The presentation will be discussing the findings with graphs, residential home analysis, and critical infrastructure energy audits.

Please join this committee on Tuesday, June 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the Central Michigan University Biological Station Auditorium. Learn what the possible future of Beaver Island energy resilience could be.

RIP POPE FRANCIS

17 December 1936 - 21 April 2025

Pope Francis (Jorge Mario Bergoglio) died at 88 years old after serving 12 years as the head of the Catholic Church. Among his many accolades, he served as the first Latin American, the first from the Southern Hemisphere, and the first Pope born outside of Europe since Pope Gregory III.

FURBABIES OF BEAVER ISLAND

By Elsie Burton

Meet Kenai! Kenai is a two-year-old golden retriever mix, and she's everything anyone could ever want in a dog. With an infectious thrill for life, she's spent every day living it to the fullest. Of all the places she's explored, there's nowhere she loves more than Beaver Island.

In the summer of 2023, Kenai took on an important role at the Beaver Island Historical Society office. Her days were filled with greeting visitors and handing out kisses—hard work for a pup, but someone's gotta do it!

But there's more to Kenai than her charming day job. She's also had a taste of college life up in Houghton, Michigan, at Michigan Technological University. Not only has she hiked all over the Upper Peninsula, but she's even attended a college party or two—talk about a well-rounded education!

Kenai might just be the coolest dog on earth. She's a hiker, a worker, a party-goer, and a regular at the Beaver Island Music Festival. That's right—she's got festival credentials.

Her life took a new turn this past winter with the arrival of her new little brother, Goff, a spirited six-month-old black lab. These days, Kenai stays busy showing him the ropes and making sure he minds his manners.

So next time you see this spunky girl trotting down the streets of Beaver Island, don't hesitate to say hello—Kenai loves meeting new friends!

2025 Beaver Island Historical Society Upcoming Events

MAY 10 — Anishinaabe Regalia
Introduction to the different styles of Anishinaabe dance styles and the regalia's. Event starts at 7 pm.

JUNE 6 — Music on the Porch-Sugarbush Band
Join us on Monday for an evening of Island Music with Sugarbush band. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the tunes!

JUNE 14 — Print Shop Museum Open House
Open house at the Print Shop museum for the 2025 year. Come and visit and enjoy history from 11-4 pm.

JULY 14-18 — 2025 Museum Week
Discover Beaver Island history with the annual Museum Week celebrating Protar and Gutsy Women of Beaver Island.

JULY 16-18 — Art Show
Museum Week Art Show during the museum week at the Gregg Fellowship Hall 11-4pm.

JULY 21-25 — Kids Summer Camp
Sign up and join us for a week of exciting activities all centered around Beaver Island's natural environment and invigorating community.

https://www.beaverislandhistory.org/print-shop/

2025 Beaver Island Historical Society Upcoming Events

AUGUST 11 — Music on the Porch
Join us on a Monday for an evening of Island Music. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy our island favorites! Event starts at 7 pm.

AUGUST 15-16 — 2025 Film Festival
The BIHS presents its 2025 Film Festival. All films are Michigan Made and the producers will be presenting their respective films and chatting with the audience. Evenings at 7 pm and Saturday Matinee time TBD

AUGUST 17 — Beaver Head Lighthouse Open House
This Place Matters Picnic and tours. Event starts at 1 pm.

SEPT 26 — ANISHINAABE TRADITION AND CULTURE VIEWS
Introduction to Great Lakes Anishnaabe and the current governance structure. Event starts at 7 pm.

OCT 13 — History of LTBB and GTB Tribes
Learn how these two sister Tribes govern themselves and the history of how they became sovereign. Events starts at 5:30 pm.

DEC 5 — Holiday Social
Join us for the Annual Holiday Social. The museum will be adorned with holiday decorations, so come see us and enjoy. Event starts at 6 pm.

https://www.beaverislandhistory.org/print-shop/
For more information visit the site

AN UPDATE FROM THE ELKS

By Lori Taylor-Blitz

ELKS AWARD NIGHT

On March 27, 2035, the Beaver Island Elks Lodge #2886 celebrated with a thrilling evening as new officers were installed and three outstanding altruistic individuals were honored for their remarkable service to the community.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Frank D'Andraia earned this accolade through his incredible dedication to keeping our community spotless, including tirelessly collecting roadside litter on the Kings Highway. He currently leads as President of the Beaver Island Health Center and is an active member of numerous island boards and committees.

ELK OF THE YEAR

Bill Haggard was acclaimed as Elk of the Year 2025. Haggard made a significant impact by contributing his expertise and resources towards the Lodge's renovation, ensuring it had an updated HVAC creating a warm and welcoming space for all members. Please give Bill a HIGH FIVE for selflessly donating time and materials!

OFFICER OF THE YEAR

2886
Grand Lodge of the Order of Elks
2024-2025
OFFICER OF THE YEAR
Patrick Nugent, PER, Lodge Secretary
Beaver Island, Michigan Lodge No. 2886

Patrick Nugent was awarded the prestigious title of Officer of the Year 2025. Nugent, who serves as the Lodge Secretary, played a key role in organizing the Beaver Island Charter and volunteered an astonishing 2,500 hours this year.

Join us in celebrating these heroes whose efforts have truly made a difference!

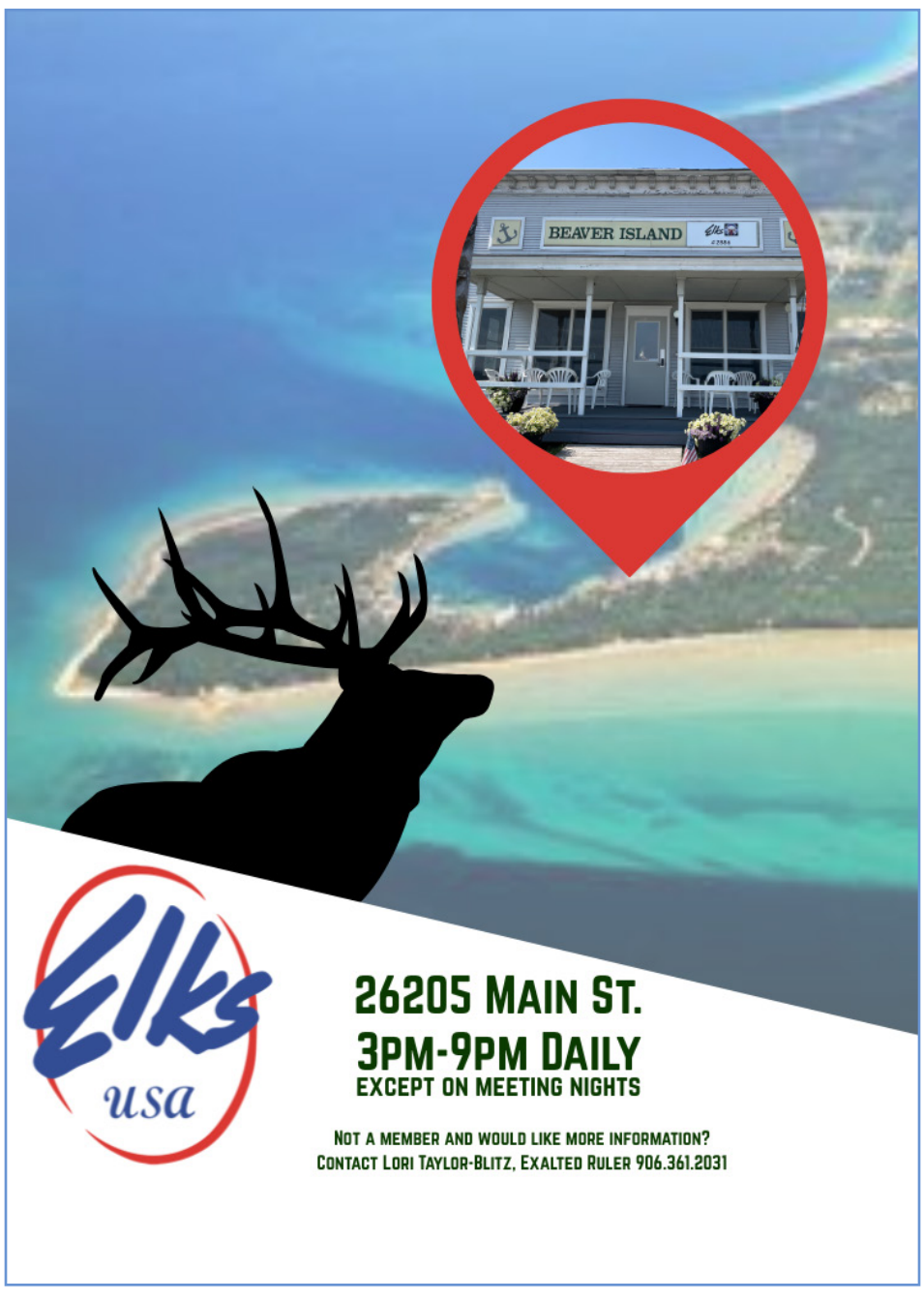
FINGEROOT TAKES HELM AS HARBOR MASTER

By George Broder

St. James Township has named Vicky Fingeroot as the new Harbor Master. With dock repairs underway, the Marina is on track to open on May 15.

"I'm thrilled to take on this role," said Fingeroot. "We want every boater to know, our seasonal slip holders, and new or returning from the mainland, they are welcomed and valued."

With the new position, Fingeroot will resign from the Township Board.



CHARLEVOIX COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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Museum Week Art Show

with a holiday twist!

JULY 16-18

Gregg Fellowship Center

Contact Lois Stipp
for more information

Museum Week EVENT SCHEDULE

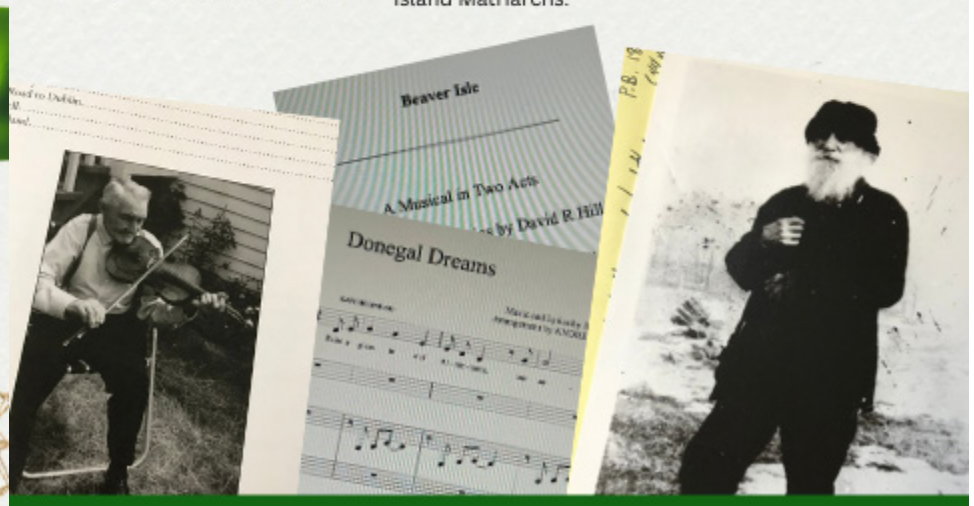
JULY 14-17

MONDAY
Music on the Porch
Island Musicians start at 7 PM.
Bring a lawn chair or use one of ours.

TUESDAY
***Beaver Isle*, the musical:**
Protar & Bonner up close and personal Part 1
A reading of the 2-act play by David R. Hill (with 14 songs)

WEDNESDAY
***Beaver Isle*, the musical:**
Protar & Bonner up close and personal Part 2

THURSDAY
Gutsy Women of Beaver Island
Our 4th Annual recognition event of our beloved Island Matriarchs.



BEAVER ISLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL

JULY 17, 18, & 19 of 2025

TICKET INFORMATION

bimf.net | (231) 330-9945

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Island Airways | (800) 524-6895
Beaver Island Boat Company | (231) 547-2311

CAMPING INFORMATION

Beaver Island Hideaway Campground
28599 Hideaway Trail, Beaver Island, MI
Open Monday - Monday
Family Camp and General Camp Available
FREE Camping with Festival Pass

2025 LINEUP:

Audrey Dupuis
South for Winter
Birdie Country
The Whiskey Charmers
Jonathan Plevyak
The Real Ingredients
Carver Commodore
Katy Gullian and the Drive
Nathan Walton and the Remedy
Heat Above
Distant Stars
Smilo and the Ghost
G-Snacks
Paul Lamb
Joe Bockheim
Chistopher 'Wink' Winkleman
Dave Boutette and Kristi Davis

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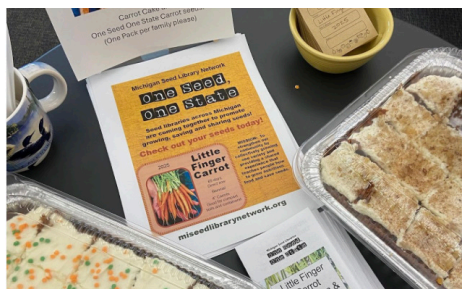
"THE CURE FOR LONELINESS MIGHT BE AT YOUR LIBRARY" (a Social RX program).

PAST EVENTS

Fiero Code's Arctic Challenge Winner

Fiero Code Club has a winner for the Arctic Challenge—local contest. Yorrick Duffing! Yorrick created a maze game that involved a ghost chase. It was fun to do! Congratulations, Yorrick! He submitted the game to the National contest as well.



International Carrot Day/One Seed One State kickoff:

This year's One Seed, One State is the Finger Carrot. So, to kick off the seed "dispersal", the library celebrated International Carrot Day, April 4 with two scrumptious carrot cakes made by Monica Longlet.

Seeds are still available but limited, so stop in soon to get yours. One packet per family please.

Lots of new seeds are available including Mammoth Sunflower seeds from plants grown right here on the island. Think Spring!

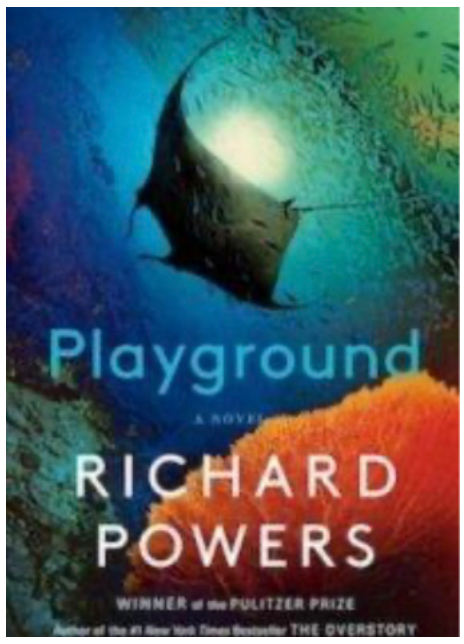
UPCOMING EVENTS

HELP NEEDED:

This month we will be cleaning up the grounds of debris and leaves. The 5th and 6th grade classes will pick up sticks and branches into a pile.

We hope the CMU honors students will help with some raking the week of May 7. Please stop in with your rakes and tarps to help out.

May 24 at 10 a.m. Help needed with Langford flower pot planting on Memorial Day Weekend. We will also be planting our native gardens out front of the building. Many hands make short work. So, stop in with shovels to help!



BOBI Book Club:

May read is Playground by Richard Powers. Set on the history scarred island of Makatea in French Polynesia, which has been chosen for history's next adventure: to send floating, autonomous cities out onto the open sea.

Discussion Meeting is May 21 at 3 p.m. and a zoom link will be available. Call the library: 231-448-2701.

AUTHOR EVENT:

May 13, 7 p.m.

Love Beaver Island history and captivating stories?

Then come to the Beaver Island District Library on Tuesday, May 13 at 7 p.m. to meet author J. Lee "Jim" Freeman. He will be discussing his first two historical fiction/romance novels, Northern Lights – The Ghost of Beaver Island and Starlight Sonata – Annabelle of Beaver Island.

The historically immersive, multi-generational works follow the exploits and loves of the fictitious Watson Family of Beaver Island following the U.S. Civil War with compelling protagonists and antagonists, and many supporting characters (two and four-legged), all set against the beautiful, yet remote and isolated backdrop of Beaver Island and Lake Michigan, of course.

Plus, get a glimpse into the upcoming third book in the series, Diary of Difficult Woman – The Queen of Beaver Island, a work spanning from the Gilded Age to the present day.

Hear about the inspiration behind his stories, ask your questions, and maybe even share your own Beaver Island insights! Jim will be signing books and have a limited supply for sale. No need to reserve a spot and no purchase necessary.

About the Author:

Jim is a seasoned writer and storyteller with a diverse background in journalism, the military, and conservation. A graduate of the Ohio University E.W. Scripps School of Journalism and the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, Jim spent over three decades crafting news articles and columns for local publications. His experiences as a sergeant major in the U.S. Army Reserve, including a year of service in Iraq, helped shape his understanding of human resilience and the power of storytelling.

As a conservationist, Jim works with local government and private landowners to protect soil and water resources. His passion for history, trivia, and love for the outdoors is reflected in his writing. He draws inspiration from a wide range of authors and genres including Louis L'Amour, Robert Heinlein, Allan Eckert, J.R.R. Tolkien and many others. He and his wife, Mary, and their schnauzer, Calli, reside on an old farm in southeastern Ohio.

BIDL Board meeting on May 15 at 4:30 p.m.

MAY IS .....

National Military Appreciation Month:

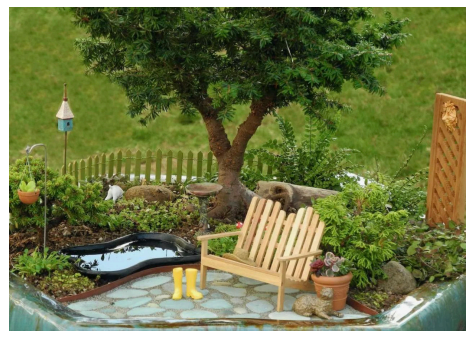
We are honoring our veterans and service members with free coffee, tea or hot chocolate at the Library all month! Thank you. We salute you!

Get Caught Reading Month:

This month, while you are out and about in the community, keep your eyes peeled for people who are reading! Take a picture of them and send it to the Beaver Island District Library email (island.library@gmail.com). We will put the pictures on display! Who know, maybe YOU will get caught reading this month!

REMINDER: NO MOW MAY!

Help our pollinators out by not mowing your yards in May! The Bees and Butterflies will thank you! Wait to mow until June!



MAY is also MINIATURE GARDEN MONTH

National Miniature Garden Month in May is the perfect opportunity to connect with nature, get your hands in the soil, and develop your gardening skills.

Whether you're just starting to learn about gardening or an expert, growing a garden in miniature is another way to enjoy nature's beauty.

It will keep you crafty and creative all year long, having fun decorating with different themes and special occasions, while you watch your little garden grow.

BEAVER ISLAND'S BEST EVER SUSTAINABILITY FAIR!

By Seamus Norgaard

Our 10th Annual Beaver Island Sustainability Fair is this year, and it will be a special one with a host of Sustainability Speakers, Workshops, Hands-On Projects, Music, Cultural Wisdom and Dance!

The Beaver Island Sustainability Fair began in 2016 to support and advocate for 3 pillars of Island life: 1) local food production, 2) smart energy through efficiency, conservation and renewables, and 3) cultural and ecological resilience.

EVENTS AT CMU

This year we're excited to have Central Michigan University (CMU) be our celebrated host for the beginning of our Sustainability Week's premiere events. Our first set of exciting speakers and programs will present at the CMU Biological Station on East Side Drive from Monday 6/16 through Wednesday 6/18. Tara's Meadow and the Beaver Island Community Center will host events Thursday 6/19 through Saturday 6/21.

MONDAY 6/16 AT CMU

The Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indian's fish biologist, Gary Michaud, will kick off the Fair on Monday evening with an enlightening presentation about the history and current work of the Tribe on sustainable fishing in the Great Lakes. Cynthia Johnson of the Beaver Island's Dark Sky Project will next provide exciting updates about the new International Dark Sky Sanctuary right here on our Island.

ENERGY DAY 6/17 AT CMU

Tuesday will be the Island's Energy Day, featuring the University of Michigan Engineering Department's new Wave Energy prototypes and the work of Agathon Solar company.

WHAT MIGHT THE FUTURE BRING FOR ENERGY ON BEAVER ISLAND? 6/17 AT CMU

Tuesday evening we welcome our community into conversations reviewing the best options for the Island's Energy Future. You will hear highlights of the extensive studies done on Beaver Island's current and potential energy options by Pacific Northwest National Laboratories and KEEN Energy Technologies. What is the cost/benefit of "business as usual"—changing nothing with our Island's energy systems? What would be the benefits of adding Energy Efficiency and Local Solar, and boosting Geothermal use? Come find out and join in this important discussion!

GREEN INNOVATIONS & CRITICAL HOPE 6/18 AT CMU

Wednesday evening at the CMU Biological Station we will feature "Green Innovations" with Septic Engineering wizard Dr. Dan Wickham of Sludgehammer. This is followed by "Critical Hope" Conversations for our community about Ice Storms, Climate Change, and our Island's Resilience. Don't miss this inspiring evening!

"HANDS ON" GREEN SEPTIC INSTALLATION WORKSHOP 6/19 AT TARA'S MEADOW

On Thursday afternoon at 1 p.m. the activities shift to Tara's Meadow on West Side Drive where Grand Valley students and Islanders will learn about and participate in the hands-on installation of Sludgehammer's answer for ecological septic solutions. Water your garden with biologically treated septic effluent? Clean up and unplug a slimy old septic system—without having to dig it up and replace it? Dr Dan Wickham is an inspiring teacher and presenter who will lead this place-based septic solution at Tara's Meadow. The public is welcome!

"BRAIDING CULTURES" WITH JOHN TWO-HAWKS

The culminating event for this 10th annual Beaver Island Sustainability Fair Week will be a celebration of our Island's "Braided Cultures" from Ireland to our local Native American "First Nations" Peoples. Our special guest for this will be Musician, Author, and Speaker John Two-Hawks.

A mixed-blood person of Lakota-Irish descent, John has overcome great odds to arrive where he is today. As a Grammy® nominated Recording Artist, Two-Hawks has spoken and performed at events of all kind in venues around the world for decades. Regarded as one of the world's preeminent Native Flute artists, Two-Hawks' music has earned him Grammy® and Emmy® nominations, Platinum Awards, been featured in movies by Fox Searchlight, films by HBO, and programs by A&E & The History Channel.

Two-Hawks identity as a person of mixed ancestry comes with his deep understanding of what it means to be resilient in the face of life's traumas. John brings us his unique perspective with compassion and empathy for all people, no matter what walk of life they come from. Through his music, speaking and writing, John Two-Hawks shares the healing power of love in today's world full of hurts and violence. His beautiful native flute performance and wisdom have reached venues as large as 12,000 people, including keynote presentations alongside U.S. Presidents, Senators, and Hollywood stars.

IRISH & NATIVE DANCE, NATIVE FLUTE CONCERT WITH JOHN TWO-HAWKS 6/20 AT BICC

Tara's Meadow and the Beaver Island Community Center are greatly honored to bring John Two-Hawks to us at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 20th, performing Native Flute along with local Irish and Native American dance to kick off the show. Get your tickets early while they last!

Look for upcoming news of Tara's Meadow Special "20 Year Solstice Anniversary Celebration" with music, ceremony, snacks, and Dark Sky fun on Saturday June 21. And news will also be forthcoming of John Two-Hawks Sunday June 22 Retreat, "The Sacred Four", exploring Irish and Native American connections. All this is coming up in the June Issue of the Northern Islander!

What an Amazing 10th year for the Beaver Island Sustainability Fair this will be. Please join us!

For inquires, contact info@tarasmeadow.org.

10th Annual Sustainability Fair

June 16-21 2025

Resiliency

16 Monday

Tribal Fisheries & Dark Sky Project

7pm- Fisheries Biologist at Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians presentation on Michigamme fisheries
8pm-Beaver Island Dark Sky Project screening, ecological significance and lighting pledge

7-9 pm
CMU Biological Station

17 Tuesday

Energy Day

3pm- University of Michigan Wave Energy Demonstration
7pm- Pacific Northwest National Laboratories Final Energy Report
8pm-Keen energy audit
8:30pm- Slipstream presentation

3pm, 7-8:30 pm
CMU Auditorium

18 Wednesday

Green Innovations & Critical Hope

7pm- Dr. Dan Wickham Sludgehammer Septic Innovations
8pm- Grand Valley State University conversation and community safe space on climate change and critical hope

7-9 pm
CMU Auditorium

19 Thursday

Resilience Camp Site

1pm- Tara's Meadow and Grand Valley State University student resilience camp site construction

1-4:30 pm
Tara's Meadow

20 Friday

Braiding Irish and Native Cultures

3pm- John Two Hawks reception at the historical museum
7pm- Native and Irish Dance at the community center
8-9:30pm- John Two Hawks concert

3 pm, 7-9:30 pm
BI Historical Museum, Community Center

21 Saturday

Tabling & Tara's Meadow Solstice Celebration

9am- Open Ceremony at Paradise Park
10-12pm- Community Tabling Event at BI Community Center
1-5:30pm- Music, Ceremony and snacks for 20 year Solstice Celebration at Tara's Meadow

9am-12pm, 1-5:30 pm
Paradise Bay Park, Community Center, Tara's Meadow

Sponsored by: Tara's Meadow, Dark Sky Project, BI Community Center, Amik Circle Society, Irish Heritage Group, Grand Valley State University, and Central Michigan University, University of Michigan, Pacific Northwest National Labratories, Splitstream, Keen, Sludgehammer, Circle Studios, BI Historical Society, Charlevoix County Community Foundation

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BEAVER ISLAND BOAT COMPANY LAUNCHES THE 2025 SEASON

By Tim McQueer
Beaver Island Boat Company President and General Manager

We are excited to begin the 2025 sailing season. Despite the ice storm that left many of the Island and mainland residents without power, most of the ice on the lake has broken up. It is clear sailing between Charlevoix and Beaver Island.

The 2025 departure schedule is a little different than years past. From Memorial Day to Labor Day the schedule remains largely unchanged. However, the shoulder season schedule has the Emerald Isle departing from Charlevoix at 10:30 a.m. and departing the Island at 1:20 p.m.

Also, you will notice that some rates will be increasing slightly for the 2025 season. Many rates have remained unchanged for several years, but rising costs have made it necessary to make some small increases. You can review our rates at our website (www.bibco.com).

This change was implemented to help us navigate employee shortages, housing issues, and increasing expenses while allowing us to maintain the same level of service. We took the changing of the schedule very seriously. There were a lot of discussions on how to best achieve our goals, leave a positive impact on our communities, and support customer needs.

Change is always difficult, but we all know change is inevitable. We want you to know that BIBCO will always do everything we can to change in a reasonable and responsible manner while keeping the impact to our customers at the forefront of our decision-making process.

Our Public-Private operation allows for funding and operational flexibility that is not always available to fully public or fully private operations. At the end of 2023 BITA and BIBCO reached the end of their first 30-year Management Services contract and signed an additional 10-year agreement. A lot of hard work from dedicated volunteer boards members and organizational staff was necessary to reach that milestone.

We have been working closely with the Beaver Island Transportation Authority on the plans for the new Ferry Vessel. It is taking a little longer than we had hoped, but this is an amazing opportunity. We want to make sure we are making the best choices for the future transportation system and the Island.

We look forward to seeing you "RIDE THE BOAT" this season.

If you have content you would like to share for review, contact the editor of the Northern Islander
Phone: (231) 622-2192
Email: Editor@beaverislandhistory.org

Tried and True Family Favorite Recipes

Karen Campbell's Butterscotch Oatmeal

Submitted by Rach Becker

Karen (Pischner) Campbell was born to Willard and Mary (Boyle) on Beaver Island, joining big brother Billy, and in the years to follow, little brother David would come along. The family moved to Charlevoix when Karen was in high school.

She came back to Beaver Island often. On one of these trips, she crossed paths with the love of her life, Gabe Campbell, who was also visiting the Island. They married in 1963 and became parents to Erin, Kathleen, Jamie, and Kevin. Their house on Newman Street in Charlevoix was always bubbling with laughter and stories—a great place where many Islanders would stay the night, going to or leaving the Island.

Karen left us in 2015. But those who knew her hold on to sweet memories.

This recipe was a favorite of the Campbell kids when they were growing up. Blasta! (Irish for delicious)

Karen Campbell's Butterscotch Oatmeal

Ingredients:
1 egg, well-beaten
1-3/4 cup milk
1/2 cup brown sugar
1 cup quick-cooking oatmeal, or 1/3 cup Cream of Wheat
2 Tablespoons butter
Pinch of salt

In a saucepan, combine egg, milk, brown sugar, and oatmeal (or 1/3 cup Cream of Wheat can be used). Bring to a boil, then simmer for three minutes.

BEAVER ISLAND IRISH HERITAGE GROUP UPDATE

By Katherine (Kitty) McNamara

CHRIS SORENSEN JOINS BIIHG AS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

We are thrilled to announce that Chris Sorensen has joined the Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group (BIIHG) as our new Administrative Assistant to accept work that has been successfully executed by Katie Johnson for the past year. Katie will continue to hold the bookkeeper position with BIIHG as she focuses her attention on starting her own business. The Board of Directors of BIIHG wish Katie all the best in her new endeavor and thank her for her dedication and enthusiasm for implementing the vision of BIIHG.

Recently retired, Chris has been actively involved with local nonprofits and sees this position as an opportunity to assist a smaller organization in maturing its IT infrastructure and backend business processes. As a long-term Beaver Island homeowner, Chris states, "I have been a consumer of BI and am now excited to contribute my skills and experience to benefit the island."

His extensive technical expertise includes building websites, managing domains, and creating structural improvements, all aligning perfectly with BIIHG's needs. Chris is dedicated to standardizing processes and manuals, complementing the foundation Katie started for féile planning in 2024.

Moreover, Chris possesses marketing skills in content creation and holds a Creative Cloud license, proficient with Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop. He will manage the féile photographer's work, ensuring proper storage and usage of their contributions among other responsibilities.

Residing in Metro Detroit, with a home on the island, Chris plans to work remotely and be present on the Island when needed for meetings and, of course, in and around BIIHG's signature event, the Emerald Isle Irish Féile. Chris Sorensen's diverse skill set, passion for community involvement, and technical abilities make him an excellent candidate for the Administrative Assistant position at BIIHG. His adaptability, eagerness to learn, and meaningful contributions will be invaluable to our organization.

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR 2025 INDUCTEES INTO THE BEAVER ISLAND IRISH AMERICAN HALL OF FAME

Nominations for the 2025 inductees into the Beaver Island Irish American Hall of Fame are now OPEN. The nomination form is available on the group's website: www.irishfeile.com This year's nominees will represent the fourth such class of members. Selected members will be honored at a formal induction ceremony on September 6, 2025, at the Emerald Isle Irish Féile on Beaver Island. Photos and biographies of previously inducted members can be viewed on the website.

Nominations are accepted for individuals of Irish American descent, living or deceased, with substantial ties to Beaver Island who have made contributions in areas such as Public Service, Cultural Heritage, Philanthropy, Business and Industry, Arts and Entertainment, Religion, Education, and Sports. Nominees must have a meaningful connection to Beaver Island, be of verifiable Irish ancestry, and have made a notable contribution in one of the aforementioned areas.

Nominations must include the name of the nominee, category, and a brief description of the reason for nomination/candidate worthiness. A committee appointed by the Board of Directors of the Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group will screen nominations and recommend selections to the Committee for final approval.

Deadline for Nominations: The completed nomination form and any supporting materials must be emailed or posted on or before June 1, 2025. Nominations received after this date may be considered for the following year. Selections will be made by July 1, 2025.

To ensure that each Class of Honorees is given full and adequate attention and recognition, the BIIHG Board of Directors agrees each annual class of inductees should be limited to up to 6 members unless there is an overwhelming reason to include others. Results will be announced and posted to the Emerald Isle Irish Féile website.

HOW ARE THOSE HEART STRINGS?

A message from Paul Lamb

Local Islander, Paul Lamb, underwent heart surgery in April. There was a dinner hosted at the Shamrock this spring at which donations could be made to help support Paul's surgery. Below is a personal message from him to our community.

"Well my family, I'm home! Just starting to get settled in. It was amazing to come home to a graded driveway, a fridge full of food including prepared meals, a ready to light fire in the fireplace and a custom recliner chair setup and ready to go.

This community truly is above and beyond nurturing. Your kindness is unmeasurable. Thank you everyone for helping me and my family through this incredibly difficult and life changing time! For me, all things considered, I'm doing great!"

BEAVER HEAD LIGHTHOUSE RESTORATION PROJECT

By Drew Vandrie, Northern Express, "Inside Beaver Head Lighthouse's (Almost) Made-For-TV Renovations"

Lighthouses possess a rugged allure here in Michigan. Anchored in the maritime lore of the Great Lakes, these brick beacons (many well over a century old) are physical reminders of the extensive nautical history and heritage of the state. During the mid 20th century, many of these storied structures were automated or decommissioned, leaving their fate and state of repair in the dark. Thankfully, organizations like the Beaver Island Historical Society have taken up the mantle for restoring these beloved guiding lights. Drawing on a robust volunteer base, local, municipal, and private donor support, and the attention of a professional renovator, the rehab of the Beaver Head Lighthouse has been a labor of love and a long time in the making.

Being the third oldest standing lighthouse on the Great Lakes, the Beaver Head Lighthouse has no shortage of storied history. Per the Historical Society website, the lighthouse was completed in 1852, marking the west approach for ships passing to the Straits of Mackinac for a century before it was decommissioned by the U.S. Coast Guard in 1962 when a radio beacon was installed on the site. From 1963 to 1970 it was used as a private hunting club before becoming vacant. The site was then purchased by the Charlevoix Public Schools in 1975 where it became an Environmental Education Center until 2016. In 2019 the property was purchased by Charlevoix County & Networks Northwest, and continual renovation has been ongoing with coordination from the Beaver Island Historical Society. Beyond the historical significance, the lighthouse and its rehabilitation has long been a point of pride and dedication for the inhabitants of Beaver Island.

For Lori Taylor-Blitz, Executive Director of the Beaver Island Historical Society, the restoration of the lighthouse has been a topic of discussion from the beginning of her tenure. "When I first started my office hours in April of 2017, community members started coming in at that time and talking to me about their general dissatisfaction with the state of the lighthouse," she says. This communal determination to make a positive impact on the beloved light has resulted in a robust and active volunteer core.

"It's a cultural asset of the Beaver Island community," she says. "They're all very dedicated and committed to making sure that it's properly cared for,"she says. Over the years, volunteers have undertaken several maintenance items like upkeeping flower beds, site clean-up and even painting the entire exterior of the Beaver Head Lighthouse. That volunteer group along with contributions from students of Eastern Michigan University's Historic Preservation Graduate Field School have allowed for significant headway to be made on the lighthouse.

The renovation of the lighthouse tower is largely complete and is open to the public, allowing visitors to climb the winding stairs and take in the scenic view. The bulk of remaining work is focused on rehabbing the attached lighthouse keeper's quarters. Prior to the transfer to the current ownership, the quarters experienced significant water damage. "There was a lot of work that had to be done," says Taylor-Blitz. Along with the removal of damaged plaster and lathe and floorboards, there was leftover furniture, and miscellaneous items that needed sorting, disposal or storage. "All of that work had to occur to get to a blank slate," she says. It was around this state of the renovation that the Historical Society and its cadre of volunteers received help from a pair of reno pros and newcomers to Beaver Island.

Keith Bynum and partner Evan Thomas, owners of NINE Design + Home, and co-hosts of the HGTV series "Bargain Block," had come to the island in search of solitude–for themselves and their dog. "During COVID we were looking for a place that didn't allow fireworks because our dog was having severe anxiety," says Bynum. "We went there for a Fourth of July week and we fell in love with the island. It is one of the most magical places I've ever been and the people are just amazing."

Bynum and Thomas ended up purchasing a secondary residence on the island and it was during one of their visits that the seasoned renovators were introduced to the Beaver Head Lighthouse.

"Our cab driver one day was like 'Hey do you want to go check out the lighthouse?' and we were like 'sure!'" The driver was Bonnie Cull-Rice, who was also an avid volunteer and involved in the restoration of the light. Upon arrival at the site, Bynum was instantly hooked. "You fall in love with the views from the lighthouse," he says. "It was one of those projects that just needed a little love."

Realizing that he could offer some of his renovation and design expertise, Bynum and NINE Design began coordinating with Taylor-Blitz and the Historical society and it was a mutually beneficial match. "We're extremely grateful that they (NINE Homes) are interested and willing to donate their time, talents, and treasures to help restore this cultural landscape," says Taylor-Blitz. Likewise, Bynum notes that he and his crew are also glad to be able to pitch-in. "The Beaver Island Historical Society has been spearheading this for a long time," says Bynum, "This partnership has been wonderful because they understand what we love about design and historic projects, and we also kind of see what they need."

Bynum and his crew began to tackle some of the essential elements like electrical, flooring and wall replacement within the keeper's quarters. Adding to the challenge of the renovation was keeping replacement elements within historical preservation standards as the lighthouse is on the National Register of Historical Places. And that's where Bynum's expertise fits in. "A lot of the specialty things like the plasterwork, I'm doing myself," he says "There's just not a lot of people to do that."

Beyond the specialty work, The Beaver Head Lighthouse provides a unique challenge for Bynum and his usual design-focused efforts. "I wouldn't even call it a redesign. It's a restoration. Taking it back to be as similar as it was," he says. "This is the challenge for me, I love big design. Taking the approach of almost no design, just restoring it to hopefully as close as we can get it to what it was. And that to me, I think, is a really fun challenge."

As with any major restoration project, making it feasible on a modest budget is also a large consideration for the Beaver Head Lighthouse. "Our biggest problem or challenge has been to find a way to make this doable," says Taylor-Blitz. The Historical Society has worked to "get a renovation completed that accommodates a volunteer budget," she says. Funds for the project have come from a variety of sources. Private donations have contributed significantly toward the project including a $25,000 grant from the Donnelly Foundation. Taylor-Blitz also highlights that the owners, Charlevoix County and Networks Northwest have contributed substantially to make the renovation effort possible.

Boosted by the support of NINE Design, along with the return of the EMU graduate students this spring, the restoration is on a positive trajectory. Both Taylor-Blitz and Bynum anticipate that the keeper's quarters will be finished in the fall of 2025 with a commemorative ceremony to take place, though details are still pending. Once the renovation is complete, the Historical Society plans to place historical pieces in the keeper's quarters and operate it as a public, seasonal lighthouse museum in partnership with Networks Northwest and Charlevoix county.

As far as what the lighthouse means to the residents of the island, Taylor-Blitz points to one of their most dedicated volunteers, Dick McEvoy "It will be very gratifying. There was a dedicated volunteer who was the 'main cheerleader,' who I really had to work with to get things organized and work around, and he passed away last year," she says, "So now we're more than determined to get this finished in his memory."

For Bynum the work and project has also been satisfying, "It looks good and it feels good to see everyone so excited," he says, "I have my little team of volunteer army on the island, and I love it. It's been awesome."

And how do you summarize all these years of dedication, hard-work and cooperation to restore this historical icon? Bynum perhaps captures it best; "Who doesn't love a lighthouse?"

BEAVER HEAD LIGHTHOUSE RESTORATION CONTINUES

By Lori Taylor-Blitz

Each year, Beaver Head Lighthouse attracts almost 10,000 visitors who come to experience its historical significance and scenic beauty. The lighthouse serves as a popular destination for tourists and locals alike, contributing to the local economy and fostering Island pride. We are thrilled to welcome so many visitors and grateful for their appreciation of this iconic landmark!

Beaver Head Lighthouse is more than just a navigational aid; it is a cherished symbol of our maritime heritage and community spirit. Its preservation is crucial for connecting us to our past, educating future generations, and fostering a sense of belonging and continuity. Through the combined efforts of volunteers, donors, and supporters, Beaver Head Lighthouse will continue to be a treasured gem on Beaver Island. We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who has played a part in this incredible journey!

Since 2017, our dedicated volunteers have been the heart and soul of Beaver Head Lighthouse, pouring their passion and energy into preserving this historic gem. From routine maintenance to extensive restoration projects, their tireless efforts have kept the lighthouse standing strong, serving as a beacon of history and community. The extraordinary work accomplished by our volunteers is nothing short of remarkable!

Since 2017 our volunteers have dedicated over 2,700 hours and will donate as many hours or more as we work this summer with the incoming field school students and Nine Design crew. The estimated in-kind value of the total hours is modestly estimated at almost $300,000! This amount does not even include the countless hours Charlevoix County employees have worked on site repairing stairs to the beach, onsite maintenance nor does it include hours put in by Networks Northwest. One could assume our stakeholders have matched Island in-kind dollars!

The total is based on a conservative estimate of hours over the years multiplied by the annual in-kind rates for Michigan published by the Independentsector.org. This incredible contribution represents not only significant financial savings but also highlights the community's unwavering commitment to preserving this landmark. We are deeply grateful for the time and effort invested by our volunteers, which truly exemplifies the spirit of generosity and dedication.

BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Keeping Island History Alive
Established 1957

PROCLAMATION OF THE BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY REGARDING THE BEAVER HEAD LIGHTHOUSE

The Beaver Island Historical Society, whose mission is to Preserve and Share the Unique History of Beaver Island, supports the ongoing preservation efforts of our volunteers and community to create a public space dedicated to the history of the lighthouse.

We recognize that the Beaver Head Lighthouse is the third oldest lighthouse on Lake Michigan, and it is our duty to support the preservation of this significant cultural asset of Beaver Island.

We endorse the vision of Charlevoix County and the State Historic Preservation Office of Michigan (SHPO) in preserving the property for public recreation.

We reaffirm the Society's objective to establish and manage a seasonal museum in the Beaver Head Lighthouse Keepers Quarters, using public donations and funding specifically allocated for the Beaver Head Lighthouse. We intend to place artifacts on indefinite loan to Charlevoix County and Networks Northwest for the interpretation of the Beaver Head Lighthouse and to preserve the heritage of the Islanders associated with the historical operation of the lighthouse.

The Museum will be managed by the Beaver Island Historical Society under the current conditions. Should ownership change, or if the property ceases to be a public recreational area owned by a non-governmental organization (NGO), the Society reserves the right to evaluate the new circumstance at that time and make decisions accordingly.

Signed on this date, April 15, 2025

By the Board of the Beaver Island Historical Society.

Angela Welke, President
Tracy Paquin, Vice President
Jacque LaFreniere, Treasurer
Sue Screven, Secretary
Joe Callian, Trustee
George Broder, Trustee
Kim Bousquet, Trustee
Alan Vicstein, Trustee
Craig Turnbull, Trustee

We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of individuals, grantors, businesses, and organizations that have contributed to Beaver Head Lighthouse since 2017. The community giving signifies a tremendous vote of confidence in our mission, and we couldn't be more grateful for this invaluable support!

Donations have been vital in funding paint, disposal fees, volunteer lunches, travel reimbursement to south end, field school support, glass replacement in the tower and equipment rental. All these projects ensure the lighthouse continues to stand as a proud historical monument. Every donation received is a testament to the collective spirit of support and love for our beloved lighthouse! With gratitude we thank you and invite you to help us steward this important cultural asset sustainability by donating to the Beaver Head Lighthouse Fund at https://www.beaverislandhistory.org/donation/ or by mail to BIHS, PO Box 263, Beaver Island, MI 49782. Please note online or in the memo BHLH.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Great Lakes Woodworking for their instrumental role in providing skilled craftsmanship and materials for the lighthouse's restoration. Their contributions of a custom made door at the tower entrance and Fresnel Lens display case have been outstanding. The dedication and expertise of Great Lakes Woodworking have made a lasting impact, and we are profoundly thankful for their support!

A special shout-out goes to Nine Design Homes for generously taking on the interior restoration of Beaver Head Lighthouse. Their expertise in design and restoration will breathe new life into the lighthouse's interior spaces, making them more welcoming for visitors. We are incredibly excited about the transformation and deeply appreciative of Nine Design Homes' commitment to the Beaver Head Lighthouse cause!

The unwavering support of the Charlevoix County Commissioners, Networks Northwest, and Beaver Island Historical Society Board has been a cornerstone of our preservation efforts. Their guidance, funding, and advocacy have been vital in maintaining the lighthouse's status as a historical treasure. We are profoundly grateful for their leadership and dedication, which have been instrumental in our success!

Save the Date, August 17, 2025, for our Annual "This Place Matter's" Picnic at the Beaver Head Lighthouse. We are hopeful to be near completion and to host the "Public Reveal on that date!"

KIDS' CORNER

Can you solve the maze?

START

FINISH

If you complete your puzzle, bring it to the Beaver Island Historical Society for a prize!
Send your picture to editor@beaverislandhistory.org to be featured in next month's paper!

Can you unscramble these words?

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TCA _____

HSIF _____

ASNLI _____

ATN _____

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REUTLT _____

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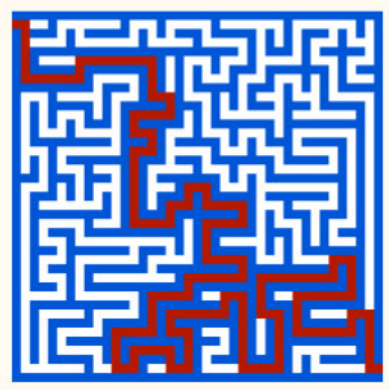
MOUSE



COMMUNITY COLLAGE

ISLANDERS TOOK ON AN ICY SPRING

Beaver Island Linemen
THANK YOU

In my time, at 91, I have not experienced an ice storm like the last week–limbs everywhere, electric power out all over the Island and elsewhere.

Fortunately, among us, here on Beaver, are linemen. Probably, I don't know you, but all of us have benefited from your skills and dedication.

I think of you as specialists in restoring utility power. But, it is more. You restore convenience. Without you, we have no power, no water–not good for anyone, no matter their medical condition.

As a recipient of your services, we cast a big THANK YOU.

A THANK YOU that comes from the HEART.

-Don and Barbara Spencer

Thank ♡ You

Thank you to everyone, especially our linemen, who made an effort to help others in our community during this year's incredibly challenging ice storm!

Photos provided by Cheryl Oliver Kern

MEET EMMA JEAN BELFY

By Michelle LaFreniere

Sunday afternoon, April 13, found me sitting at the dining room table of Emma Jean Belfy. She lives in her late husband's childhood family home. She just turned 91 years old, and is still as beautiful and quick-witted as she was 50 years ago. She has lived an exciting and full life.

Emma was born in Detroit in March of 1934 and named after two aunts. Between then and now has been an adventure. She was born the last of five children and a full 12 years younger than her next oldest sibling. That alone provided some great memories for her. Her older brothers doted on her and sometimes even allowed her to tag along on dates with them. Her next oldest sibling, her sister Janie, wasn't quite as thrilled with her birth, running away (to the neighbors, haha) when she was brought home. That quickly changed of course.

She grew up in a time when Detroit was full of neighborhoods that had everything you could ever want in walking distance from home. Men's and women's clothing stores, butchers, grocers, etc. You could walk to pay your utility bills. The men in the neighborhood mostly worked for Hudson and Chrysler. They worked around the clock, and were also able to walk to and from work if they chose. It was really the heyday of Detroit.

When her sister Janie was married, widowed and became a mother in the span of one year, she decided to move to Philadelphia and Emma went with her to help. After a while Emma got a job of her own working in a department store. From there she secured a job working for Peck & Peck, a women's clothing store, with locations in Philadelphia, New York and Detroit. Emma told us about traveling by train, bus and sometimes even a ferry to work. In those days you could have tea or coffee and toast on the train in the morning. After work you could have a cocktail in the club car on the way home.

When Janie returned home to Detroit, Emma stayed. She got her own apartment closer to work.

When her mother was getting older and not feeling well Emma returned to help care for her. One day at the meat market a friend introduced her to her future husband. They had dinner that night and that was the beginning of a life filled with love.

Emma married Erwin Belfy of Beaver Island and they went on to have five children in four years. Alice, Mary Ann (Cissy), twins, Mark and Susan (Suzy), and Kathleen (KK). When Erwin retired they brought their family to live on the island. Alice was already out of school and Kathleen was going into 8th grade.

Just to give you an idea of her strength, determination and get 'er done attitude, while still in Detroit Emma and her neighbor organized and began a tradition of a three-day festival every year to help fund the Assumption Grotto Catholic School that all of her children attended. They also started Bingo for the parish, which proved to be very successful as well.

In a show of just how small of a world it is, Danny Gatliff, a very good friend of Erwin's, was raising his family with his wife Georgie on the very same street Emma lived on. The Gatliff girls remember Emma walking by, because she was always impeccably dressed, head to toe, including matching purse and shoes. This was before Erwin had even met Emma!

Emma visited the island for the first time in her first year of marriage. They stayed in the same house she lives in now. Emma worked at the Shamrock for 25 years, working all shifts at first, but settled into the first shift as a breakfast waitress. That is where most people remember her from. Always a smile, a smart remark and great service. She recalls one time when she was kidnapped on her way to work by a group of Island boys who offered her a ride. They were drinking and she was not. When she realized that they really weren't going to take her to work she said to hell with it and joined them. This story made me laugh so hard just because I know the characters who picked her up. I bet that was one laughter filled car ride.

In her younger years on the island she filled her time with volunteer work for the Fire Department Auxiliary (she and her daughter Kathleen are the last remaining original members), the Altar Society, the Amvets Auxiliary. She catered a few weddings back in the day too, including my sister Debbie and her husband John's and Eddie and Kathy Maudrie's.

These winter days don't offer much of an opportunity to get out too often. Summer brings sunny days and lots of company. She misses the days of big family gatherings and meals together over the holidays. She has been blessed with three sons-in-law, a daughter-in-law, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren in addition to her own five kids.

My best memories with Emma are of her not just teaching us but showing us good manners, how to greet people, dress for success and how to laugh till our sides hurt.

I've included a picture of Emma just the other day, and one of her holding a childhood photo of herself reading a book. Look closely. She is also holding a copy of the same book. Cynthia Johnson went through great lengths to find it as a surprise for her.

Emma is a very much loved and respected member of our island community. I am thrilled to have had the opportunity to sit down and interview her. Thanks for having me in, Mrs. Belfy.

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Comfort Keepers

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BEAVER ISLAND RURAL HEALTH CENTER UPDATE

By Frank D'Andraia

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." This often quoted line from the Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens seems to sum up the current outlook for island medical care. The HC board is closely monitoring recent changes being implemented by the federal government, for federal assistance has been very important to improving island medical care. For example, our recent acquisition of a state-of-the-art x-ray machine was made possible thanks to a federal program. Another matter of concern are recent problems affecting the Medicaid Payment Portal.

At this time the center's board is taking steps to assess Health Center exposure regarding federal support, for federal support does not always come directly from the federal government but through state and local government and nonprofit organizations too.

Like many of the Island's other 23 not-for-profit organizations, the center will be looking to increase support from philanthropic organizations and donors. COVID underscored the value of having an emergency fund in place and two years ago the board updated the center's cash reserve policy, ensuring the operational funds are available if needed.

On the upside,the board approved participation with Mackinac Island, a member of the Mackinac Straits Health System, on a joint grant submission to the Michigan Health Endowment Fund. This $250,000 grant application, if funded, will assist the two island health centers hire two Michigan Certified Community Health Workers. These healthcare specialists are expected to improve patients' access to care, services and programs on and off the two islands, and foster much needed collaboration between the two health centers.

Additionally, the board also gave approval to move forward with a grant application to Michigan Blue Cross/Blue Shield to secure funds to hire a grant writer. Discussions to date with MBC/BS have been very positive and an application is being prepared.

This spring the center also began collaborating with Munson Healthcare to re-introduce hospice care to the island. The two organizations are exploring ways these vital services can be viable for our island residents.

Additionally, the center is helping to establish Munson's Ask-A-Nurse service, currently available statewide, with island residents. Instead of waiting and worrying, the "advice line" is staffed by experienced registered nurses 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. The nurse will ask a few questions and give you information to help you decide what to do next. Simply call 2 31-935-0951 from the privacy of your home. No insurance required, the service is FREE.

New parents will appreciate knowing that for the first time in decades, pediatric care will soon be available on the island. Thanks to a grant from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, the center is introducing a pilot program to gauge the level of need for pediatric care on the island. The C3F grant provided the resources to bring pediatric practitioners to the island on a monthly basis, weather permitting. At the end of the grant an assessment will be made about the program's continuation.

Seniors will be relieved to know that the initiative to have Home Health Aides (HHA) available on Beaver Island took a step closer to completion during April. For individuals seeking to become a certified Home Health Aide, Michigan requires HHA students to, at a minimum, undertake the following:

1. Fingerprint background checks, for Michigan law prohibits individuals convicted of certain offenses from having regular, direct access to patients;
2. Complete fifty nine (59) hours of instruction (a blend of classroom and online training);
3. Complete sixteen (16) hours hours of supervised clinical training (on and off island);
4. Pass all sections of the Michigan Home Health Care Examination
5. Plus, there is a requirement to complete twelve (12) hours of continuing education for every twelve (12) months.

As of April 30 island residents who are undergoing training to be Home Health Aides have completed steps 1 and 2 and in May they will begin their on and off island clinical training. Once they complete steps 1 through 3 and successfully pass all sections of the Michigan Home Health Care Examination, they will be fully certified to practice and will provide services as employees of Comfort Keepers. The board is pleased that participant training will meet or exceed state standards. The costs of the required training was underwritten by a grant from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation.

About Comfort Keepers:

The Comfort Keepers story began in 1998 when Kristina Butler, a registered nurse working in home health care discovered firsthand the need for someone to assist her patients with their non-medical needs.

Today, Comfort Keepers has 700+ locations in 13 countries across the world. Comfort Keeper affiliates are independently owned and operated locations. The Comfort Keepers franchise for Northern Michigan is operated by Northern Michigan Home Care. The owners of NMHC are Russ and Leslie Knopp and additional information may be found here: https://www.comfortkeepers.com/offices/michigan/traverse-city/about/our-story/

In 2024 Comfort Keepers was once again named one of the top home care providers in Newsweek's America's Best of the Best rankings.

CONGRATS BRONCOS

Western Michigan University's (WMU) men's hockey team won their first ever NCAA championship on April 12.

Congratulations to all of Beaver Island's WMU alumni and fans!

BAY NORTH REALTY

32075 East Side Drive
Beaver Island

A plant lovers paradise! This lovely east side home has floor to ceiling windows with southern exposure providing ample natural light year round. One bedroom, currently an office/den, and full bathroom are located on the main floor, along with an open kitchen/dining/living area. There is a cozy fireplace and sitting area just off the kitchen, as well as a convenient pantry and laundry room. Enjoy dinner on the deck overlooking the surrounding perennial beds, which are protected by a deer fence. On the north side of the house is a finished workspace/art studio with a wood stove, sink, and built in table and storage. Upstairs you will find a sleeping loft/non-conforming bedroom, spa-like bathroom, and electric sauna. Walls could be added to convert the loft into two bedrooms, it is currently being used as a sunny primary suite with sitting area. There are 6+ acres offering privacy and woodland views. The Jordan River passes through the western portion of the property where you will enjoy seeing spring flowers and wildlife. Bill Wagner Campground is a couple minutes down the road for Lake Michigan access. Call to schedule your showing!

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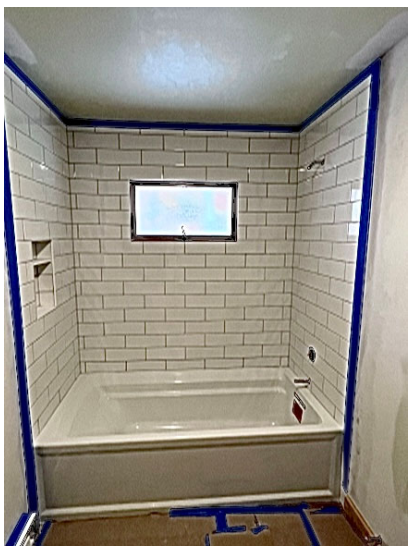

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AMIKOOMIS ANISHINAABEK CORNER

By Melissa Wiatrolik

HISTORY OF THE ODAWA PEOPLE

The Odawa lived far to the east along the Ottawa River which is a tributary to the St. Lawrence River and Atlantic Ocean. The Odawa then moved toward the west, arriving at the Great Lakes where we lived upon Ottawa Island in northern Lake Huron, now called Manitoulin Island. This is where we split into three major groups eventually known as the Ojibwe, Odawa and Potawatomi. These groups refer to themselves as Anishinabek.

After living on Ottawa Island for several centuries and moving about because of war with the Iroquois and other tribes, we eventually settled at the Straits of Mackinac, then later at what is now McGulpin's Point. Slowly, we spread down the Lake Michigan shoreline. We drove the Mushcodens tribe out and took over their lands which included Emmet and Charlevoix counties. During one of the wars with the Iroquois tribes, we fled to the western parts of Lakes Michigan and Superior in what is now Wisconsin. We remained there until we defeated the Iroquois and moved back to the area of the Straits in the 1680's. Other groups of Odawa left the Straits and moved to the Detroit and Toledo area about the year 1700. In later years, many of those bands were either removed to Oklahoma or relocated to Walpole Island in Ontario, Canada. This is why we find Odawa people living in those places today. *(https://ltbbodawa-nsn.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Our-Land-and-Culture-for-web.pdf)*

On Sept. 21, 1994, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB) was federally reaffirmed with the signing of Public Law 103-324. The Tribe is governed by a nine-member Tribal Council who serve staggered terms. The Tribe has over 4,000 members with a large number living within Charlevoix and Emmet Counties. The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians presently employs over 100 full and part-time employees. The historically delineated reservation area, located in the north-western part of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, encompasses approximately 336 square miles of land within the two counties. The largest communities within the reservation boundaries are Petoskey, Harbor Springs, and Charlevoix. *(https://ltbbodawa-nsn.gov/)*

This historical information can be found in Our Land and Culture: A 200 Year History of Our Land Use. The late Wesley Andrews, an LTBB Tribal Citizen, performed the research and wrote it with assistance from Odawa Tribal Citizens. The purpose of it was to provide the Waganakising Odawak with important information about our history and culture; and in particular, about the land within our reservation located in what is today Emmet and Charlevoix counties of Michigan.

Another source of historical information is the History of the Ottawa and Chippewa Indians of Michigan by Andrew J. Blackbird, which was published in 1887. It provides an in-depth look at the Ottawa and Chippewa tribes in Michigan, including their traditional customs, historical experiences and the impact of colonization. Blackbird, a member of the Ottawa tribe and a U.S. interpreter, presents his people's history from an indigenous perspective.

Dr. James McClurken wrote Gah-Baeh-Jhagwah-Buk: The Way It Happened – A Visual Culture History of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa, which was published by the Michigan State University Museum in 1991.

Oral history has always been an important part of our lives. Seek out your elders, listen and learn.

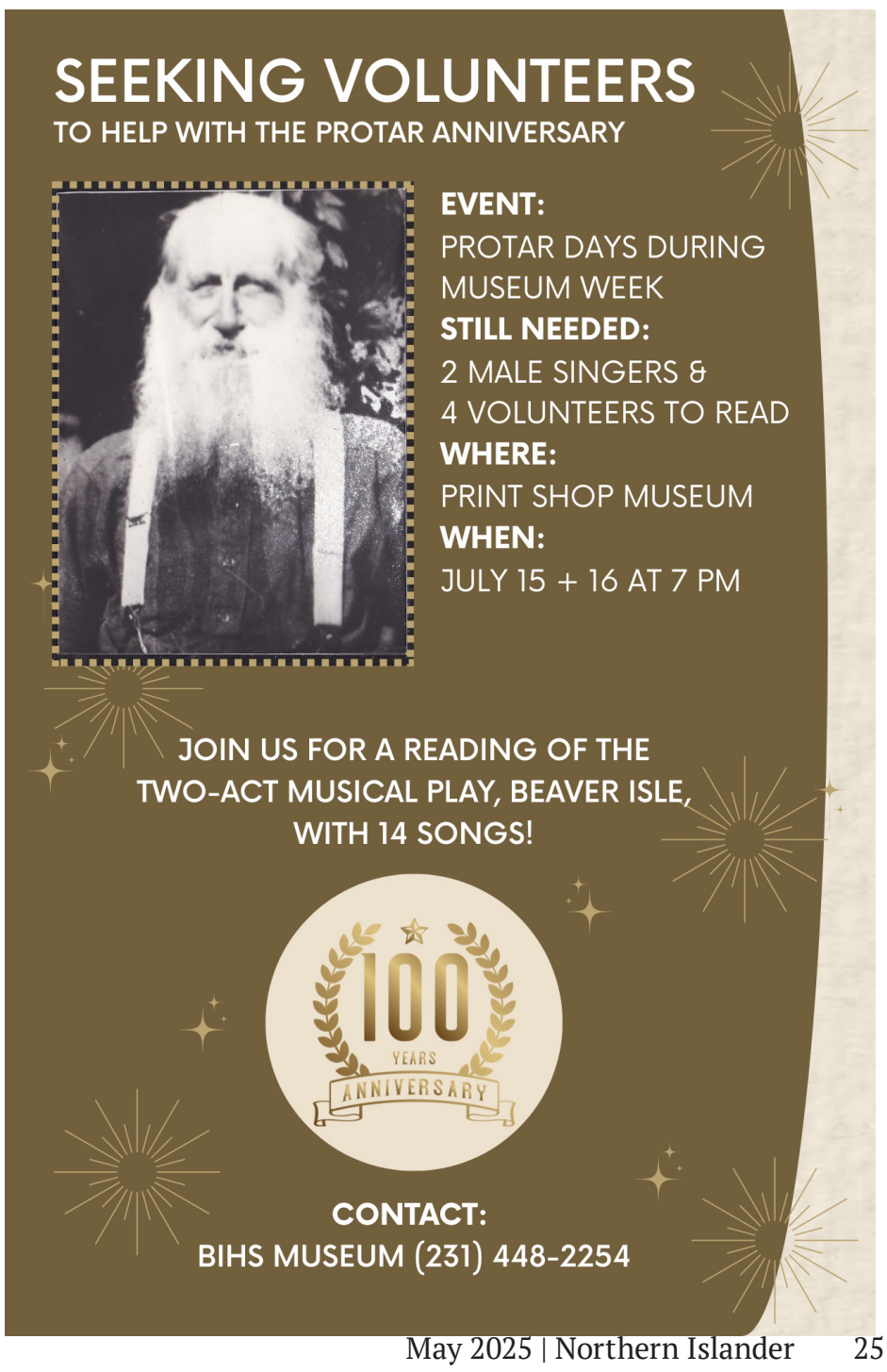
LTBB Mission Statement:

Being Odawa is all about freedom. The Freedom to be a part of a people who, with integrity and pride, still have and speak our own language. The freedom to share in common with all other Odawak the customs, culture, and spirituality of our ancestors. The freedom we have today we will bring to the future through unity, education, justice, communication, and planning. We will reach out to the next seven generations by holding to cultural values of Wisdom, Love, Respect, Bravery, Honesty, Humility and Truth. We will utilize our Tribal assets to provide the necessary tools to become successful, hard-working community members who proudly represent our culture. With these values we will move the Tribe forward. Link to follow the recording provided. *(https://ltbbodawa-nsn.gov/)*

Anishinaabemowin Interpretation of LTBB Mission Statement:

Debendiziwin aawan maanda Odawa aawiyiing. Geyaabi gdaa'aanaa miinwaa gdanwewmi Anishinaabemowin, maanda egishkaago'iing debendiziwin ebidgwasiing mnaadendiziwin miinwaa wiimnaadendiziyiing. Gdabendaanaa debendiziwin kina gwaya Odawak naasaap eyaamjik, maanda naakinigewinan, maadiziwin miinwaa mnidoowaadiziwin gaanaaniigaaniijik debendamowaad. Maanda debendiziwin eyaamiing nangwa, kanamaajiidonaa nigaan ezhibezhigoyiing, kinoomaadwin, dbaakinigewin, giigidowin miinwaa naakinigewin. Kazhiibiignaketaanaa maanda niizhwaachiing bimaadiziwin waabii'aamigak mjignamiing ninda mnomaadiziwinan echipiitendaakin: nbwaakaawin, zaagidwin, mnaadendamowin, aakde'ewin, gwekwaadiziwin, dbaadendiziwin miinwaa debwewin. Kanakaazinaa ninda gdabendaaswinaanin, jimiigwe'iing nakaazwinan jimnomewzi'iing, enitaanokiijik maampii Anishinaabek enaapshkaamwaad maanda gbimaadziwinaa. Ninda eyaamiing echipiitendaakin, mii go kina gwaya maampii enjibaad jiniigaanibizad.

If you are interested in learning more, the links provided in this article offer valuable information.



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LIBRARY EVENT TO PRESERVE TRADITIONS AND CULTURE

By Melissa Wiatrolik

An Enriching Day of Stories and Activities

The library recently hosted JoAnne Cook from Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. JoAnne is an active member of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. She strives to live the Anishinaabe way of life, is an indigenous knowledge keeper of the culture & traditions and shares with those who are seeking to understand the way of life. Ms. Cook has incorporated that belief into the development of alternative courts that utilize tradition and culture to promote healing and restore balance. The vibrant and enriching event aimed at preserving and sharing Anishinaabe traditional stories and cultural heritage with students and the community. This event featured a prominent presenter who engaged with different age groups, offering tailored activities and insightful discussions on the importance of traditions of the Anishinaabek. The event was made possible by a grant from Charlevoix County Community Foundation.

Engagement with 1st to 4th Grades

The presenter began the day by interacting with students from the 1st to 4th grades. Through captivating traditional stories, the young students were introduced to the rich cultural heritage that continues to shape their lives today. The presenter shared language activities, fostering a deep connection between the students and the stories. The enthusiasm and curiosity of the students made the session lively and engaging.

Interactive Session with 5th to 8th Grades

Next, the presenter met with students from the 5th to 8th grades, delving deeper into the cultural teachings. Each student received an activity that complemented the stories shared. The presenter spoke extensively about the medicine wheel, traditional medicines, and the seasons, along with the stories associated with each season. This interactive session helped students understand the cyclical nature of life and the cultural significance of each phase.

Insightful Discussion with 9th to 12th Grades

The presenter then engaged with the 9th to 12th grades, discussing the books they were currently reading. This session highlighted the history and profound insights embedded in traditional cultural resources and stories. The presenter intricately braided these elements together, illustrating how they form the cultural fabric of the Island. The older students gained a deeper appreciation for their heritage and the enduring relevance of these stories.

Community Storytelling Event

The day's activities culminated in an afternoon storytelling event open to the entire community. The library was filled with curious minds eager to hear and share stories. This event not only showcased the power of storytelling in preserving culture but also reinforced the community's collective identity and shared heritage. The turnout was remarkable, reflecting the community's strong interest in cultural preservation.

Overall, the library event was a resounding success, providing a platform for the younger generation to connect with their roots and for the community to celebrate their shared traditions. Through engaging activities and meaningful discussions, the event underscored the vital role of stories in keeping cultural heritage alive.

GREGORY LARSON
ARCHITECT

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greglarsonarchitect@gmail.com (P) 814.599.1112

ALL THAT JAZZ

By Matt Thomas

The Beaver Island Performing Arts Alliance (BIPAA) is not only about Baroque on Beaver and classical music. BIPAA also presents the Beaver Island Jazz Series in partnership with the BIC Center. For 2025, on Wednesday, July 30 at 3:00 p.m., the St. James Jazz Ensemble makes their annual appearance at the Whiskey Point Brewery. This year, we are pleased to offer two additional stellar concert opportunities.

On Tuesday, July 8 at 7:30 p.m., join us at the BIC Center for the vocal/guitar duo Edye & Mike (www.edyeandmike.com) from Grand Rapids. Inspired by the vocal/guitar stylings of both Tuck & Patti and Ella Fitzgerald & Joe Pass, they present polished performances of favorites from Billie Holiday to Bill Withers. They have appeared with Connie Stevens and Ray Charles, and performed globally from Torino, Italy to Shanghai, China. Having performed all over the world, west Michigan is their home, and they have been involved in music education from K-12 schools to college administration while constantly performing gigs. This will be an intimate musical evening with a candlelit ambience—don't miss it!

Beaver Island's beloved Claudia Schmidt (www.claudiaschmidt.com) returns on August 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the BIC Center. A powerful vocalist who combines folk, jazz, and blues, Claudia has a long history of performing on the island. Her incredible voice and charismatic stage presence make her concerts riveting.
After a professional career beginning in Chicago and leading her to Wisconsin and Minnesota, she took a detour from full-time music and opened The Old Rectory, which hosted jazz-jam groups from Traverse City. After running the Bluebird Bed and Breakfast on the island, she returned to full-time recording and touring. Her infectious energy and joy in her music are not to be missed! Please join Claudia and her jazz trio for this special night of song.

Tickets for both the Beaver Island Jazz Series and Baroque on Beaver are available June 1 at the BIC Center ticket page: www.store.biccenter.org/tickets/. For more information on the BIPAA and its events visit www.baroqueonbeaver.org.

Beaver Island Performing Arts Alliance
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Happy Hour Jazz Standards
Whiskey Point Brewing Company
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Thursday, August 14 | 7:30
BEAVER ISLAND JAZZ SERIES: CLAUDIA SCHMIDT
In partnership with the BIC Center
Beaver Island Community Center
Ticketed Reserved Seating Only
BEAVER ISLAND Jazz SERIES
MORE INFO:
JULY 24 -AUGUST 2
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NEWS FROM THE BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER

By Robert Cole

The Historic Ice Storm of April 2025 has come and gone, as the island continues to recover from its impact. Your Community Center remained open for extended days and hours throughout the duration of the weather disaster, offering warmth, shelter, food and water, electricity, information, and more to those affected by the incident. We are glad to have played a supportive role for the community as it moved through the crisis and came out the other side. Many thanks to all who helped keep the BIC Center building operational during that time; your efforts are not forgotten. Looking forward to warmer times and the beginning of our busier season, here's a rundown of May highlights "at the heart of a great community", with more details found on the WVBI/BIC Center Community Calendar at calendar.biccenter.org.

BICS Theater is back at the BIC Center on Friday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m. with a production of Get up and Go!—a collection of humorous sketches which explore the world of travel and transportation, answering the timeless question that has plagued humankind from the beginning—"Are we there yet?" Proceeds from the Grades 3-6 performance will go to support the students' Spring Trip. Tickets are $8, and are available only at the BIC Center Front Desk.

On May 10 from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. is Masterpieces for Mom, where you can treat Mom to a creative and relaxing afternoon at our Mother's Day Celebration. Whether you're celebrating with your kids, your own mom, a mother figure, or just looking for a fun way to unwind, this event is the perfect way to spend your Mother's Day. Bring your creativity, as we will be making Diamond Painting flower bouquets - as well as giving the kids an opportunity to show their love by decorating and painting a little birdhouse that you can take home.

Lite bites will be available Continental-breakfast style. Spots are limited, so reserve yours today at store.biccenter.org. Later that day from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., is our Bad Moms and BYOB event. All moms (good and bad) are welcome to attend the viewing of the 2016 movie Bad Moms. Since it's BYOB, bring something to share with your fellow moms!

On May 23, 24, and 25 BIC Center hosts a series of annual Warblers on the Water birding programs. At 5:00 p.m. on the 23rd is a meet-and-greet, followed at 6:00 p.m. by the movie The Big Year, a comedy starring Steve Martin and Jack Black. On the 24th at 1:30 p.m. is the Keynote Address by Dr. Nancy Seefelt, and on the 25th at 1:30 p.m. is a second keynote presentation by Terry Graybill. Terry's talk will describe his Tales from the Road of his Mitten Big Year documenting over 320 bird species throughout Michigan. This event is open to the public without charge, but registration is encouraged.

Backing up a bit to May 24, we've got our second annual BIC Center Golf Tournament at the Beaver Island Golf Course. Entry fees are $65.00 per player, $40.00 per member, and includes a full round of golf, a delicious lunch on the course, and trophies for both individuals and team champions. If you're interested in becoming a sponsor, contact Kevin Stipp to talk about how you can help support the BIC Center and make this event even more tee-rific, at klstipp57@gmail.com, or 951-453-1367.

Twice-monthly Trivia Nights and Saturday movies are also in store for May, so check out the Community Calendar and the BIC Center Facebook page for updates. See you at the Community Center!

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THE STORIES BEHIND THE NAMES OF ISLANDERS LOST AT SEA

By Connie Wojan

"One dark and stormy night we heard the flapping of sails and saw lights flashing in the darkness. The ship was in distress. After a hard struggle she reached the harbor and was leaking so badly she sank. My husband in his efforts to save them lost his life." (Elizabeth Whitney Williams, Child of the Sea.)

There is no record that Clement Van Riper, who died in Lake Michigan three years after Joe Palmer, had any children. Clement was born in 1833, in New York, the son of Issac and Rebecca. He married his wife, the well-known author Elizabeth Whitney Williams, in 1860. Her autobiographical book Child of the Sea frequently refers to her husband. According to Elizabeth, he came to Beaver Island from Detroit "for his health."

He initially had a cooper (barrel making) shop near Whiskey Point. In the early days of fishing far from urban markets, fish were preserved by salting and packing them in barrels for shipment. For two years beginning in July 1862, he was appointed to be a government teacher on Garden Island. Elizabeth accompanied her husband and had happy memories serving many Native Americans living there including Chief Peaine.

After their stint on Garden the Van Ripers spent winters on the mainland and Clement "engaged in fishing for a few years." In 1868 US Land Office recordings show VanRiper purchased 12.7 acres on Beaver Island.

With the resignation of Peter Kilty in 1869, Van Riper was appointed Whiskey Point Lighthouse keeper. Interestingly, in Child of the Sea, Williams reveals that from the outset of Clement's appointment, "I took care of the light…my husband having very poor health." The couple enjoyed the benefits of a new tower and improvements to the house made by a crew in 1870. Upon the tower's replacement the color of the light changed from white to the red that remains today.

At the time, Paradise Bay was heavily used as a harbor of refuge. In her autobiography Elizabeth recalls that when gales came up, "sometimes we could count 50-60 vessels anchored in the harbor… so close they almost touched." On November 7, 1872, a violent three-day storm began. It was clear to Clement and Elizabeth that the Thomas Howland, a newly built three-masted schooner, was in trouble. Despite drowning in the harbor in his attempt to rescue the crew, Clement's body was never found. In her book Elizabeth movingly laments "what a sorrow it is to lose your loved one by drowning and not to be able to recover the remains. It is a sorrow that never ends…."

Yet it is well known that Elizabeth put her sorrow aside and accepted appointment as the keeper of the Whiskey Point Light in her own right after her husband's death. For 12 years, she was the lighthouse keeper there and later at the Little Traverse Light in Harbor Springs. Keeping the light burning continuously through the night was the keeper's most important and demanding duty. The fuel during her tenure on Beaver was lard oil which hardened in cold weather and necessitated "trimming the wicks" often during the night. In her book she remembers many sleepless nights. Thus we understand why the Beaver Island Historical Society has awarded Clement Van Riper's wife the title of "gutsy lady."

So what could have been the ailment causing Van Riper's health to be so poor (in his 30s) that he could not climb the steep tower stairs to tend the light? It is possible he was suffering from tuberculosis (consumption)–the deadly killer of the young which infected 70-90% of urban populations worldwide during the 19th century. For as Elizabeth states above Clement came to Beaver Island "for his health" from the urban area of Detroit. At that time it was believed that tuberculosis could be cured by fresh air. Later it was discovered that the disease was caused by a bacillus which kills slowly. Clement likely weakened gradually between the early 1860's when he came to Beaver Island in hopes of better health until his drowning in 1872. Despite being too weak to tend his light, Clement Van Riper died a hero's death, valiantly launching a boat in a raging storm to save the crew of the Howland.

This story is a part of an ongoing series based on Islanders listed on the Great Lakes Memorial.

BEAVER ISLAND FOOD PANTRY SEEKS HELP

By Beth Croswhite

It has been a hard winter for many on Beaver Island! The Food Pantry 'need' has more than doubled these past winter months. Unfortunately, now our 'coffers' are low. We need donations!

As you have probably experienced, grocery prices everywhere have dramatically increased. Combining cost increases with lack of full time work in the winter, residents have struggled. Many neighbors are experiencing "food insecurity".

What is food insecurity? I used to think that meant little in the refrigerator or on the shelves. But I have recently become aware it is much deeper than that. Food insecurity is about budgeting. For example, "Should I buy produce or meat? Or pay the electric or heating bill?" There's not enough money for all the expenses. That is when food moves to a lower need and is replaced by less expensive and less quality food options, for example; prepared meals from the Dollar Tree.

The Beaver Island Food Pantry has tried to make changes to save costs. Recently the pantry made a big move to join the Manna Food Project in Harbor Springs. The Manna Food Project is a local food pantry but it is also an umbrella pantry distributing food to smaller local pantries in the area. They can buy much larger quantities of food, pallets at a time. This cost savings is passed on to our pantry when we order a case of something. Manna also has access to grants and large food donations from bigger stores, such as Meijers or Ebel's, among others. It is also a recipient of "Feeding America" and USDA foods. This offers dramatic cost saving to our pantry. For example, a week before last Christmas, Manna received 3,000 loaves of bread for free. All local pantries were contacted immediately and 30 loaves of bread were donated to Beaver Island! However, with Manna, our pantry has a limited list of foods available. We find we need to supplement with food that Manna does not offer.

The Beaver Island Food Pantry has had a long history of working with McDonough's Market. McDonough's has been a generous and long-standing supporter of our pantry. Each month our Pantry recipients receive a 'voucher' (i.e. gift certificate) that is paid with pantry funds. They can use this voucher to purchase dairy, produce and meat at McDonough's. We also order foods for our Holiday dinner boxes and winter recipe program from the Market. Throughout the winter, the Pantry offers two new recipes monthly, with all the ingredients included. Holiday dinner boxes are distributed at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. The pantry also orders foods that cannot be bought with Manna. McDonough's Market fills these gaps and special orders.

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A MONETARY DONATION TO THE BI FOOD PANTRY

To send a check, please make it out to the Beaver Island Christian Church with the memo stating Food Pantry. Mail it to BI Food Pantry, Box 21, Beaver Island, MI 49782.

We are covered under the Christian Church's 501(c)(3) to accept donations and to offer tax deductions. We also accept unopened, shelf stable, foods, cleaning supplies and personal care items. You can drop these items at one of our basket locations:

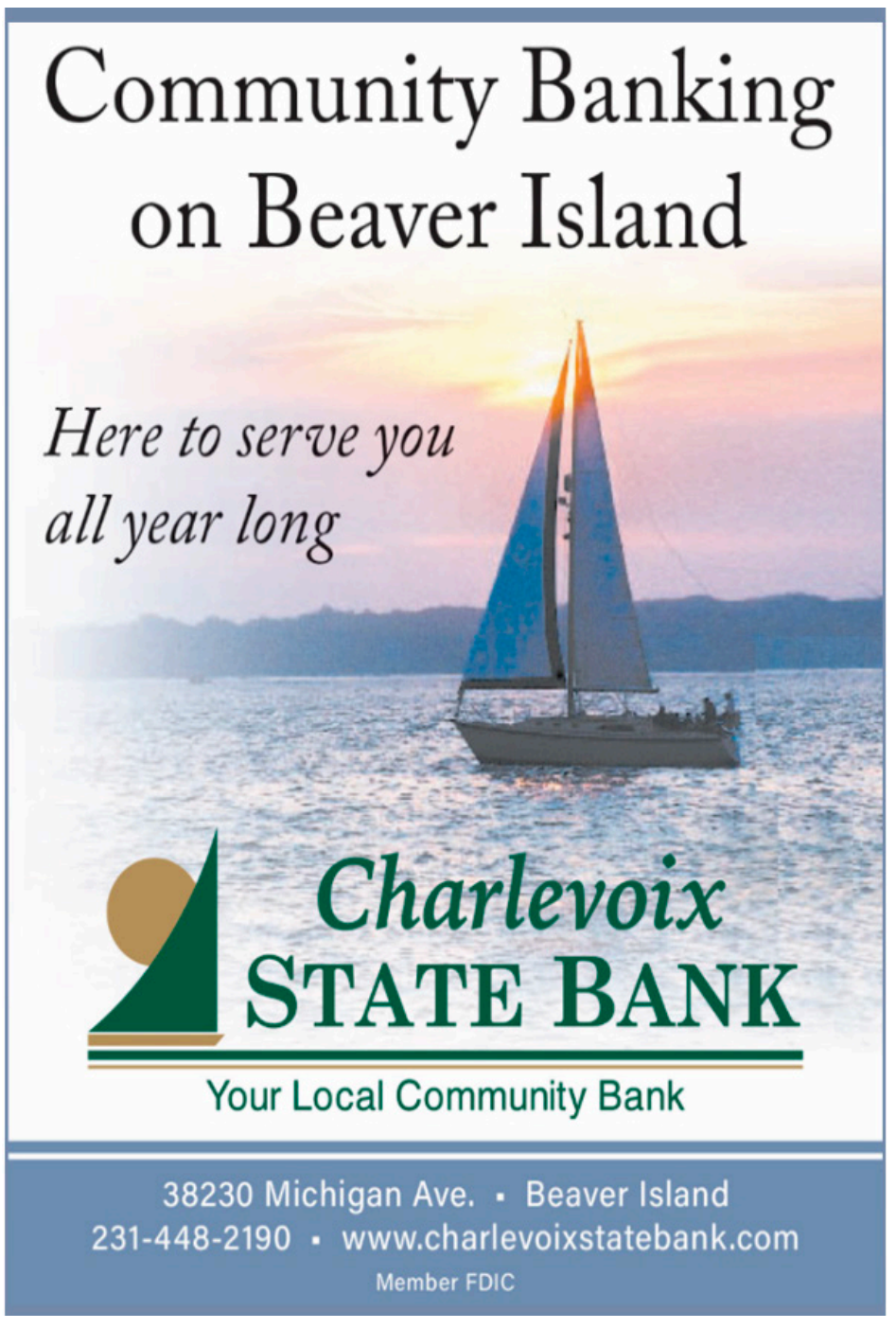
- BI Medical Center entry
- BI Community Center
- Fresh Air Aviation at the BI terminal
- Holy Cross Church entry, BI Christian Church entry

The Food Pantry does not require any religious affiliation to participate.

For questions, feel free to contact Beth Croswhite, cell 231-838-9069 or email bethjoddy@gmail.com.

Or contact Judi Meister: landline 231-448-2963 or email meisterjudi@gmail.com.

Thank you!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Lot 38 of the Beaver Sands No. 2 Plat. A 1260 square foot home that is a 24'x 30' two-story structure with 2 Bedrooms, 1 Bathroom and a Utility room. This house has 6' stud walls with good insulation for low heating costs. A new roof was put on it just a few years ago. The current replacement of this home structure is $450,000. The upper level of the home has a large living room and a large kitchen area connected by a dining room space. The second story is like a studio-style apartment of its own with room for beds on one side of the living room area. A front deck looks out toward the entry drive and parking area. The kitchen and dining room area look inland through sliding glass doors over a large deck on the back, overlooking a pine grove and fruit trees near the house.

The property also has a 28' x 40' Garage/Polebarn with 14' side walls and inside parking. It has a corner workshop area with tons of room in the front for storing snowmobiles and other recreational vehicles. It is a good structure for anyone who wants a separate space to work or for storing wood, outside furniture, bicycles, kayaks, etc. This accessory building has about a $100,000 replacement cost. The lot is 100' wide with 120' along East Side Drive; it is 774 feet deep and is 1.7 acres. The raw land value is right around $20,000. Vesty's River runs across this lot, not quite halfway back from the East Side road. The lot is large enough for you to put in a garden area, more fruit trees, or a clover food plot for viewing wildlife. This house, pole barn, and lot have plenty of potential as a year-round home, a second home, or an income property. The total replacement cost is about $575,000, so this offering is priced right at an asking price of only $360,000.

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HONORING ROBERT BURGIN

Submitted by Carol Burton

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Robert (Bob) Howard Burgin, 66, of Rapid City, Michigan, who passed away on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at his home.

Bob was born on August 12, 1958, in Detroit, Michigan, to Jay Glen Burgin and Mary Louise Howard. As an only child, he grew up in Detroit with many fond memories before moving to Bellaire, Michigan, where he graduated from Bellaire High School in 1976. His passion for learning led him to pursue higher education, earning an associate degree in accounting and business management from Northwestern Michigan College in 1982, followed by a bachelor's degree in business administration and management from Michigan Technological University in 1985.

Bob was an entrepreneur at heart, venturing into business with his father in 1977, where he worked in land development and real estate for the remainder of his life. He also recalled the time he enjoyed as a ski instructor at Shanty Creek Resort as well as having owned and operated a limousine company early in his life. Bob was dedicated to his community, serving on numerous boards over the years, including Rotary International, The National Trout Festival, a founding committee member of the KART Trail development, the Village of Kalkaska Planning Commission, and Downtown Development Authority, always striving to make a positive impact in his community.

Bob had a love for the outdoors and found peace spending time in nature, whether driving off-road vehicles or simply enjoying the peace and serenity of his property. He was particularly fond of sharing his favorite spots in the woods with family and friends, offering a glimpse of the natural beauty he so deeply cherished. His greatest joy, however, was spending time with his beloved grandson, Romero.

Above all, Bob was known for his sense of humor. He could always be counted on for a good joke or a memorable movie line, and his ability to bring joy and laughter to those around him was one of his most cherished qualities.

Bob is survived by his daughters, Amanda Burgin and Mary (Michael Teichman) Burgin; his son, Eric (Daniel Strong) Burgin; and his grandson, Romero Burgin, and step-daughter Brandy Case. He was preceded in death by his parents, Jay Glen Burgin and Mary Louise Howard.

Bob's legacy of laughter, love for nature, and deep commitment to his family and community will remain in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know him. He will be dearly missed.

Bob and his partner Tom Sheneman's Northern Land Company, based in Kalkaska, Michigan, developed the Beaver Island Hideaway Subdivision. It is now home to many island residents and property owners and is the location of the Beaver Island Music Festival.

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CHARLEVOIX COUNTY SYNOPSIS APRIL 9

Submitted by Kim Garver

The Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners met in the Charlevoix County Commissioners room on April 9, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. Six Commissioners were present.

Motion approved the agenda, as amended.

Motion approved the consent agenda, as presented.

Motion approved Resolution #25-040, Grandvue Operating Transfer.

Motion approved to waive the emergency electrical permit fee effective immediately until October 1, 2025, due to damage caused by the March 29, 2025, ice storm, not applicable to new service connections, upgrades, structural fires, or other planned modifications.

Motion approved to reappoint Don Voisin to the Jury Board.

Motion approved to reappoint Michelle Cortright to the Boyne City Local Development Finance Authority.

Motion approved a per diem for the Materials Management Planning Committee consistent with Charlevoix County's established committee per diem.

Motion approved to add the topic of a generator to the May 2025 Building and Grounds agenda for discussion.

Motion approved Resolution #25-041, Shirley Roloff Center Roof.

Motion approved Resolution #25-042, Charlevoix County Transportation Authority Memorandum of Understanding with Charlevoix County Transit.

Motion approved Resolution #25-043, Amended Full-Time Paid Time Off/Earned Sick Time Act Policy.

Motion approved Resolution #25-044, Part-Time Paid Time Off/ Earned Sick Time Act Policy.

Motion approved Resolution #25-045, Amended New Hire Form.

Motion approved Resolution #25-046, Annual Part-Time PTO/ ESTA Calculation Sheet.

Motion approved Resolution #25-047, Phase 3 Trail Grant Agreement Amendment.

Motion approved Resolution #25-048, FY26 MIDC Grant Renewal.

Motion approved Resolution #25-049, FY25 Scrap Tire Grant.

Motion approved Resolution #25-050, 2025 Analysis for Equalization.

Motion approved Resolution #25-051, Appropriation of Parks Millage Funds.

Commissioner Christensen moved to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268 Section 8(c) at 10:45 a.m., seconded by Commissioner Hankins.

Commissioner Christensen moved to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268 Section 8(d) at 11:17 a.m., seconded by Commissioner Hankins.

The meeting was adjourned to the call of the Chair at 11:24 a.m.

Complete copies of the Board minutes can be found on the County website, www.charlevoixcounty.org.

Julia A. Drost, County Clerk

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